

1978 30 years 2008

# SUPERSUMMERCELEBRITYSPECTACULAR!



Rivers!

Zanes!

Bob Dylan's just-announced concert in Prospect Park (see story, below) provided the latest evidence that Brooklyn's sizzling celeb summer is upon us. The bold-faced action began on Memorial Day, when TV's Mike Farrell (far right) headlined a fundraiser for Brooklyn for Peace — and the former M\*A\*S\*H star sounded very much like his soft-spoken BJ Hunnicutt alter-ego when he championed human rights as the solution to our violent times. **See page 12.**

The excitement continued this week, as legendary soul singer Isaac Hayes (right) sat down with GO Brooklyn to talk about his upcoming concert in Prospect Park on June 12. It's really a shame that he's no longer the voice of Chef on "South Park," but these things happen. **See page 9.**

Then, our own kids' music and puppetry reviewer, Trey Dooley, got his thick-fingered hands on Dan Zanes' (left) new album, an all-Spanish musical journey that earned one-and-a-half thumbs up (it would've been two thumbs up but for Dooley's war injury). **See page 13.**

The wacky week concluded on Monday night, when Joan Rivers (far left) showed her face — we mean that literally, by the way (seriously, look at her!) — at the Alvin Alley show at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. **See page 12.**

If every week is like this, we'll have to start our own celebrity page!



Hayes!

Guy from M\*A\*S\*H!

# The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN-NORTH BROOKLYN

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## 'CELEBRATE' DYLAN

### Bob to close Prospect Park fest's 30th season

By Gersh Kuntzman

*The Brooklyn Paper*

Bob Dylan — the folk singer-turned-rockster turned voice of at least two generations — will perform in Prospect Park on Tuesday, Aug. 12.

The concert, a benefit for the annual "Celebrate Brooklyn" series at the Ninth Street

band shell, was not announced publicly but in a single line on Dylan's Web site on Monday — the same day that tickets, ranging in prices from \$55-\$100, went on sale for Dylan fan club members who knew the promotional code "Tilden."

The best of the pre-sale tickets sold out within hours. By nightfall on Monday, all

5,600 tickets were gone, said Jack Walsh, executive producer of "Celebrate Brooklyn."

"I'm absolutely thrilled that he's coming to Brooklyn," Walsh said. "He's iconic. He's touched so many people in so many ways across so many generations. A show like this truly lives up to our mission to put Brooklyn's diversity on display."

Walsh declined to discuss how little old Prospect Park landed a performer who fills arenas worldwide, but said "it just came out of a brainstorming session."

"We were sitting around and someone said, 'What if we could get Dylan?' And that's how it started," Walsh said.

He also declined to say what Dylan would be paid for the show.

For the legendary folk-rockster, the Prospect Park concert at the end of his current "Modern Times" tour, which kicked off on May 16 in Worcester, Mass. and will take him to the Canadian Maritimes, and

through Scandinavia and Europe before ending here.

In support of the critically acclaimed 34th album that he put out in 2006, the Pulitzer Prize-winning Dylan's eclectic shows have featured a mix of his best-known works ("Highway 61 Revisited," "It's Alright, Ma (I'm Only Bleeding)," and "Don't Think Twice, It's All Right") and some obscure songs like "Cat's in the Hat," which he added to many set lists after the Bard of Boerum Hill, Jonathan Lethem, recommended the forgotten 1990 tune.

That's not the Minnesota-born, Greenwich Village-schooled Dylan's only connection to Brooklyn.

During his religious phase — which produced three standout albums: "Slow Train Coming" (1979), "Saved" (1980) and "Shot of Love" (1981) — Dylan first found Jesus, but then gravitated to the Hasidic Jewish

**See BOB on page 12**



Legendary folk-rockster Bob Dylan will perform on Aug. 12 at the Prospect Park band shell, closing out "Celebrate Brooklyn."



Pitcher Kristen Baker of the Brooklyn Kickball League's John Cougar Mellencamps.

## Kickballers defend their swashbuckler

By Ben Muessig

*The Brooklyn Paper*

Among the kickball hipsters of Greenpoint's McCarran Park, the word "freelance" has a new meaning.

The competitors in Brooklyn Kickball — the borough's premier league — have rallied behind the cry, "Free Lance!" putting team rivalries aside to support Lance Jackson, a member of the Pirates who was arrested on May 25 for carrying a buccanier's sword in the Macy's in Manhattan.

Cops nabbed Jackson while he and his girlfriend were shopping for new glasses, charging the 29-year-old Greenpoint resident with weapons possession for carrying the metal sword, which Jackson maintains was merely a prop for that evening's games.

Players in the 33-team league were anything but shocked by the allegations.

"This is actually the first time I've heard about them even having a sword, but it fits

**See PIRATE on page 6**

By Sarah Portlock

*The Brooklyn Paper*

It's official: MTV's "The Real World" reality show is coming to the Bell Tel lofts building on Willowghy Street in Downtown, and residents can't wait to show producers the "real" real world.

The Brooklyn Paper reported two weeks ago that the music network was considering the newly renovated former telephone company headquarters for the 21st season of its long-running series.

On Monday, MTV announced that it had finally inked the deal.

"The Real World" is confirmed," said the building's spokeswoman, Alyssa Miller. "Bell Tel was selected for [its] landmark quality, awesome views ... very high ceiling heights [and] gentrifying neighborhood."

One of the first Bell Tel tenants and the creator of the Bell Tel blog, Michael Lepore, said the show's arrival would "bring a lot of attention to a neighborhood that definitely



gets overlooked a lot.

"I really only see positive angles on it," he added.

Fellow resident Andy Arencella, who moved into the building in October with her husband and two teenagers, said she's looking forward to what the show will do for her neighborhood.

"It's going to be a good thing," she said. "We knew eventually [the Downtown construction boom] is going to bring a lot of services, but we thought it would take a while. But with this MTV thing, it might hap-

pen a little quicker."

Some residents worry that the cast could disrupt their million-dollar quiet, but Lepore brushed it off.

"MTV's been doing this long enough, they know what they're doing now," he said.

The cast and crew will be tucked away in two penthouses on the 26th and 27th floors, while most current residents in the 230-unit building live below the 15th floor.

The show will begin taping in August, pending completion of renovations of the \$6-million duplex penthouse apartments, which are accessed by a separate elevator.

Before MTV begins filming, the crew will meet with neighbors to address any concerns, said executive producer Jim Johnston.

"Our approach is very low-key," he said. "It's a documentary, so the goal is always to be as low-impact and anonymous as possible. Once we begin, people see that it's not that big of a deal. And, in four months, it's over."

Licking Downtown residents say they are most excited about "The Real World" cast experiencing the diversity of Brooklyn in their developing neighborhood.

"I want them to see my 'real world,'" said Ka-Dea Brestny, 30, who works at a pet supply shop on Willowghy Street.

But a graduating Brooklyn Law School student, Raven Dorantes, 28, said the announcement marks more of a sign of the times and feared the worst.

"With a million eyes on this area, it's just going to get a lot like Williamsburg-ish, or maybe worse," Dorantes said.

## They hurt horses, don't they?

By Marie Cunningham

*for the Brooklyn Paper*

Poorly maintained bridle paths in Prospect Park are injuring horses — prompting at least one local equestrian to pull her horses out of Brooklyn entirely.

"Horses are getting crippled," said Fran Levy, former manager at the Kensington Stables, where most of the park's horses are barned.

Levy blamed the park's "unstable, eroded bridle paths" for injuries to all four of her horses, including the mustang Corey, who has shin splints. As a result, she has moved her horses out of Kensington Stables and taken them upstate, far from the rocky, three-and-a-half-mile bridle path that has been known to trip up the majestic 2,000-pound animals.

Maintaining the bridle path has proven to be a challenge, said Tupper Thomas, the park's administrator, because rain-fall erodes soil from the path, bringing rocks to the surface.

The Parks Department covers the rocks with ash to level the ground, but it's not a permanent solution, Thomas said.

"Right now we're putting more ash [on the trail]," she added.

"That will last for about two months."

Walker Blankinship, the president of Kensington Stables, said that ash does help the horses' footing, but it does nothing to solve the underlying problem of erosion.

Blankinship recommended an entirely new drainage system

**See NEIGH on page 6**



Walker Blankinship, owner of the Kensington Stables, rides along the damaged bridle path in Prospect Park. Horse owners said their steeds have been injured on the rocky road.



## 4th Avenue left waiting at the station

By Mike McLaughlin

*The Brooklyn Paper*

The MTA giveth and the MTA taketh away.

This time, the almighty transportation agency has abandoned its ambitious plans to renovate the shabby Fourth Avenue station in Park Slope into a glittering, light-filled, Euro-styled stunner.

Just last November, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority showed off renderings (left) of the elevated F-train platform basking in sunlight from new windows, renovations that were part of a larger project to reconstruct the crumbling elevated tracks on the F and G line between the Carroll Street and Fourth Avenue.

The trackwork is still set to start later this year and finish in 2012. And improvements to the equally beleaguered South-North Street station are still slated to begin next year.

But the overall \$250-million project has been trimmed to \$187.8 million, so something had to give, said Deirdre Parker, a spokeswoman for New

York City Transit.

"Work on the Fourth Avenue station was never officially funded," Parker said in an e-mail — one that contradicts an announcement made at a Community Board 6 meeting last November. "Consideration has been deferred until the next capital plan."

Station appearances are not as im-

portant as the system's functionality, but it does matter to riders.

"Aesthetics and cleanliness matter to the experience of riders," said Noah Budnick, deputy director of Transportation Alternatives. "To think that those things don't affect the quality of your ride and your experience misses the re-

**See FOURTH on page 6**





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## The art of honesty

### Test of honor system results in broken jar

By Marie Cunningham  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Artist Jillian May had a simple idea: for two weeks last month, she set out baked goods on an unmanned table on Dean Street with a sign that asked customers to deposit 25 cents in a jar.

Some people stole the food. Others stole the money. And vandals broke the jar. In other words, it was a successful project! In fact, no matter what happened, May's "Concept Kiosk" had to be successful, given that it was part art project and part social experiment — and a statement on trust and honesty in society today.

Indeed, after a rough start, May said she began to see the better side of humanity, noting that area residents, workers and business owners began protecting her kiosk (and money) when the cookies and cupcakes ran out each day.

One of the kiosk's biggest supporters was Peter Parker, 54, a security guard at the demolition site that may someday be the Atlantic Yards mega-project across the street from May's kiosk, between Carlton and Vanderbilt avenues in Prospect Heights.

Parker was not only May's first customer every morning (his favorite was the vegan chocolate chip cookies), but he watched the stand — an example of the integrity May hoped the project would inspire.

Parker even said he once caught someone trying to steal the money jar. "He put it back and apologized to me," he said.

Vandals were tougher. After hooligans broke her glass container, she started using plastic. But when she returned the next day to find the bottle melted in half and the money gone, May settled on a glass wine carafe — with an opening too small for a hand — that she hot-glued to the kiosk.

May came up with "Concept Kiosk" during a residency last year on a small Finnish island, where unmanned roadside kiosks are common. She made her own and started selling American-style treats to the Finns — and at the end of every day, sure enough, she always found the right amount of money for the number of sweets taken.

Back in America, May not only found theft, but that Brooklynites are more hesitant to trust a 25-cent baked good left out on the street with a sign.

"They are suspicious of generosity in an urban culture," May said of the participants in her social experiment.

Still, "Concept Kiosk" did have a sizable fan base. "It's testing the idea of honesty, integrity and trust," said Jimmy Greenfield, owner of the Soapbox Gallery, the Dean Street storefront where May placed her stand.

Once locals got word of the high-quality treats, they were inspired to come back for more. And the more they ate, the more invested they became.

"One time [when the bottle was missing]," said Anton Schlesinger, 26, "people just put money in the tray."

Who says art doesn't pay?

To find out about Concept Kiosk visit [www.conceptkiosk.blogspot.com](http://www.conceptkiosk.blogspot.com).



## Poly alumni still object to merger

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

A new state Senate report blasts this year's merger of New York University and Polytechnic University as flawed — and defiant Polytechnic alumni, who have been unsuccessful in their bid to prevent the Downtown engineering campus from being taken over by the Manhattan-based liberal arts school, are saying, "We told you so."

Some board members and alumni of the 154-year-old Downtown Brooklyn university have sought to speed the merger with the expansionist Greenwich Village academy, claiming conflicts of interests and a 1973 state agreement that suggested that NYU is barred from having an engineering program.

Amid such charges, state Sen. Kenneth LaValle (R-Long Island) negotiated a 30-day postponement of the February merger vote so he could proceed with an inquiry.

After that delay, the boards of both schools voted to join the two institutions, which must be approved by the state Board of Regents.

LaValle's just-released report dismissed some of the alleged misconduct — but it did criticize Polytechnic for these improprieties:

- "The affiliation negotiations between Polytechnic and NYU were being conducted by [Poly] President Jerry Hultin months before they were announced to the rest of the Board."
- "Board members who were not supportive of the affiliation



Polytechnic University President Jerry Hultin

were excluded or marginalized from the working group that set up [to] address affiliation."

"An updated appraisal of Polytech's real property was never obtained."

Anti-merger forces said the findings buttressed their ongoing opposition to NYU's acquisition of their alma mater.

"This fits into what we've been saying all along — that it's been rushed for no reason," said Edward Sawchuck.

Officials at NYU did not respond to requests for comment. Poly Board Chairman Craig Matthews said in a statement that LaValle's report "expressed no basis to object to the merger."

He said both schools would move ahead to "seek approval by the Board of Regents" — and the result would be a "top-tier research, technology, and engineering institution that will benefit our students, New York City, the nation and the world."

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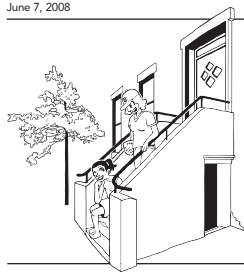
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# THE STROOP

## NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

### GREENPOINT

## Catholics keep faith, but lose their school



After more than 100 years, St. Cecilia's elementary school will close in June, the latest Catholic school to shut.

By Ben Muessig  
The Brooklyn Paper

When school is out for summer next week at St. Cecilia's, it's out forever. The last bell will ring on June 18 at the 102-year-old Monitor Street Catholic school. Father James Kriche, pastor of St. Cecilia's Church, says he got the orders to close the nursery- to eighth-grade school because of a drop in enrollment — down from 251 students at the start of this school year to just 107 for the next one.

"Enrollment could have dropped for a number of reasons," Kriche said. "Some families are not able to pay the tuition, others are moving out of the area."

The dwindling student body coupled with a debt of \$400,000 made it impossible for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn (which also includes Queens)

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to keep St. Cecilia's open, church officials said.

"Up until now, the Diocese has been able to help them out, but it really can't any more," said spokesman Frank De Rosa. St. Cecilia's will join two other Catholic elementary schools in Brooklyn that will close this year — St. Fortunata School in East New York and St. Finbar School in Bath Beach — and some 40 elementary schools that have been shut down by the Diocese since 1995.

Church officials tried to save St. Cecilia's by merging the school and the congregation with nearby St. Nicholas church and school on Powers Street in September 2009.

"The idea was that by merging the two schools, we would still have a strong Catholic school in the neighborhood rather than two that are weak," Kriche said.

Despite the pending merger, Kriche had announced in April that St. Cecilia's would terminate its under-attended kindergarten and first grade in the fall — but not even that move could close the budget gap.

So on May 12, school officials announced that St. Cecilia's school would close while the parish would stay open until the pending merger — a decision that still has parents and students reeling.

"I think this was in the air since September, but they waited until May to let us know. They put us all in a predicament," said Amari Velez, 31, of Boro Park, who sends four of her five children to St. Cecilia's.

Velez is upset with administration for not notifying her of the changes sooner, but more than anything, she and her children are crushed to see their beloved school close.

"I'm very disappointed — the education was wonderful," Velez said.

Church officials say that plans have been made to accept St. Cecilia's students at Catholic schools including St. Stanislaus Kostka in Greenpoint, or St. Nicholas, Northside Academy, and St. Joseph and Dominic Academy in Williamsburg.

St. Stan's principal, Sister Doreen Jankowski, said the closure of St. Cecilia's means more than an influx of new students.

"It's such a terrible loss. We will be the only Catholic school left in Greenpoint," she said. "But we are going to be the beacon. We've got to maintain Catholic education for those parents that want it."

### DOWNTOWN

## A hit and run on Court St.

By Sarah Portlock  
The Brooklyn Paper

An 88-year-old man was hit by a silver sedan and left to bleed on Court Street on Monday afternoon as the driver sped off, cops said.

The victim, whose name has not been released by cops, was crossing at Montague Street at about 3:40 pm when the car hit him and dragged him one block to Pierrepont Street, according to witnesses.

By evening, he was listed in critical condition at Bellevue Hospital.

"When he got hit, he was spinning around and around. Half of his body was outside and half was inside," said Manuel Aguilar, 42. "[The driver] didn't show no remorse — he was trying to get the guy off him. He was swerving the wheel in between two lanes, like a snake."

Cops roped off Court Street from Remsen to Pierrepont streets and rerouted bus lines. They also searched for security tapes from nearby businesses to find the driver's license plate.

"Nobody's caught as of yet," a cop said on Wednesday.

The accident is under investigation. Witnesses are asked to call (800) 577-TIPS with information. Identities will be protected, cops said.



A hit-and-run driver bashed into a man on Court Street on Monday afternoon, critically wounding him. Cops closed the street for hours as they interviewed witnesses and collected evidence.

### RED HOOK

## Is it last call at LeNell's?

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

A popular Red Hook liquor store run by a feisty entrepreneur is scrambling to find a new home after an apparent deal to keep it in the neighborhood collapsed — along with the store's ceiling — at the 11th hour.

It's been a tough week at LeNell's, the independent wine and whiskey specialist on Van Brunt Street — or as owner LeNell Smothers put it in a recent e-mail laced with drink recommendations and store gossip, "We have been in utter hell."

Last week, Smothers's lease expired at its location between Coffey and Van Dyke streets — and at the same time, a tentative agreement to build a new store and bar with local baron



Greg O'Connell fell through. O'Connell said construction costs were too expensive and the project too risky because

to Smothers, who has known for months that she would have to uproot from her home for the past five years.

It showed downy scorch six months ago thinking that this deal was a "done deal," Smothers told The Brooklyn Paper.

That search began after her current landlord — who works for the Baluchis' Indian restaurant chain — said he did not intend to renew her lease because he wants to use the ground floor himself, according to Smothers.

Smothers was hamstringing in her hunt for a new space because state liquor laws require any new store to be less than 1,000 feet from the current location.

Still, Smothers said she might relocate her store to Bedford-Stuyvesant and reapply for her license.

Until she secures a new commercial space, Smothers vows to hold onto her present location until she's thrown out, a process that could take months.

### FORT GREENE

## 'Hill' street blues

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

Clinton Hill and Fort Greene residents are grappling with a surge in robberies this year, even as overall neighborhood crime has decreased.

Robberies skyrocketed 16.5 percent in the 88th Precinct and burglaries climbed 3.5 percent, too — though steep drops in assault and grand larceny contributed to an overall 6.75-percent drop in reported crimes through June 1.

"In the last couple of months this has come up on the radar," Ursula Hegewisch, chairwoman of the Fort Greene Association. "I've heard that a couple of people have been attacked in the early evening hours. Nothing physically serious, but it's still traumatic."

Long-term residents of the neighborhood like Hegewisch, though concerned about any increase in crime, are not too worried about this year's uptick in robberies and burglaries because crime has fallen drastically compared to the early 1990s.

There was serious crime back then," said Michael Prude, who's lived on DeKalb Avenue for about 15 years.

He was never a crime victim until he recently caught an intruder in his home, but even that didn't shake his confidence



that crime will stay low. "Crime went down dramatically because we got a police presence because the complexion of the neighborhood has changed," Prude said, using the word "complexion" literally.

In nearby Clinton Hill, some residents,

especially some newcomers, have become vocal about the sudden crime spree.

"It looks good statistically [overall]," said David Haber, who's lived in Clinton Hill for five years and is a member of the Society for Clinton Hill. But Haber said his neighbors are concerned about an increase in crime from car break-ins to shootings, which they believe is underreported.

"I do sense that women and young people are more vulnerable than they were five years ago," he said.

A recent shooting, likely drug-related, near the intersection of Grand and Putnam avenues, intensified calls from the Society and Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Clinton Hill) to beef up the police presence in the area bordered by Vanderbilt, Classon, Lafayette and Atlantic avenues — a criminal hotbed, they say. They held a rally at the scene of the shooting to protest local violent crime, though police statistics, from mid-May just after James's demonstration, indicate there have been five shootings this year compared to nine last year.

"The precinct is not the crime-riddled command it's being portrayed as," said Dep. Inspector Philip Sterrizza, the top cop. "We've done some good work."

Sterrizza said that although there are more robberies, there have also been 77 percent more robbery arrests, which he attributed to strategic deployment of cops to hotspots.

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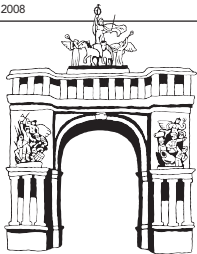
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# THE SPOO

PARK SLOPE PROSPECT HEIGHTS, SUNSET PARK  
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## This babe goes to toyland

**B**abeland, the new sex-toy store for women, had raffled off a bunch of gift bags at a reading I attended a couple of weeks ago. I didn't get a ticket, but watched as the winners collected their little pink bags full of who knows what. As I waited outside for a friend, a woman passed by, holding one of the bags as if it was filled with dog poop.

"Here," she said, handing it to me. "I don't want this." she said. Reflexively, I took it.

I hooked through it. There was a silver and pink dildo, a bottle of "Babe Lube," and a soy candle that melts into a massage cream. Then there was this silver oval-shaped thing attached to a battery pack.

Yipes!

My friend showed up.

"Here," I said. "Do you want this?"

When I got home and told my fiancé about my brief ownership of a bag full of sex toys, he said, "And you gave it away? Call her right now and get it back!"

I tried really hard not to giggle as I interviewed Claire Cavanah, owner of the store, at 462 Bergen St. between Flatbush and Fifth avenues. After all, I'm a grown-up. I certainly didn't want her to think that looking at all her sex toys made me embarrassed or anything.

"I bet a lot of people come in here and giggle," I said, looking for a little reassurance.

"Oh yes," she told me. "Ever since 'Sex and the City,' we've been getting groups of four or five women out on a girls' night who come in and look at everything and laugh together."

Actually, though, the inside of the store was oddly reassuring. I say oddly, only because I was braced for some really over-the-top, wild and naughty displays. In fact, the pink and chrome décor could easily be a trendy cosmetics store in SoHo. There are bins along one wall that look a bit like a cool version of a candy store. OK, so they were filled with condoms of every shape, color and size, but still.

"Women are under-served in this industry," said Cavanah. "In fact, they are underserved in intercourse."

PS ...  
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Wendy Ponte

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Claire Cavanah, co-owner of Babeland, with a friend.

To correct this inequity, Cavanah plans to hold workshops like those she already holds in her three other stores. Coming soon is "Creative Sex Life" in July and "How to Please Your Man," in August.

Another popular workshop is "How to Give a Blowjob." Popular with whom, one wonders. Don't worry, Cavanah promises a workshop — for men — on giving oral sex to women, too.

Good, I thought.

The interview over, Cavanah invited me back to the official press opening on June 5.

"We're giving away some great stuff," she said.

This time, I won't give it back.

Wendy Ponte is a writer who lives in Park Slope.

### THE KITCHEN SINK

Our friends at the **Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies** sent a group of seventh-grade students into the belly of the beast — the Gowanus Canal — and the kids concluded that the so-called "Lavender Lake" should be dredged to remove toxins and that our sewage system should be completely overhauled so that millions of gallons of raw sewage no longer flows into the canal every year. Ah, youth! So energetic! So naïve! ... Councilman **Bill DeBlasio** is the Jolly Green Giant of city government. Park Slope's towering Democrat has introduced a bill to force public schools to recycle more of the 50,000 tons of annual trash they generate.

E-mail: [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com).



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## 'Signs' of change in Slope

By Sarah Portlock

The Brooklyn Paper

Two weeks after the Department of Sanitation suspended alternate-side parking in Park Slope, the streets are getting dirtier and some drivers are getting confused.

That's because city workers have been installing signs about new street-cleaning rules — but on some Slope streets, the alternate-side parking days have changed. Some streets that were "No parking, Thursday, 11 am-2 pm" are now, "No parking, Tuesday, 11 am-12:30 pm."

I realize they're changing the rules (to reduce the amount of no-parking times), said one driver. "But did they have to change the days, too?"

Yes, apparently. Sanitation Department spokeswoman Kathy



New "No Parking" signs are going up all over Park Slope. Here, one block still has some old signs (foreground) and some new signs (background).

Darwins said that some days were changed to "balance the workload with personnel, equipment and the new routes."

While the Department of Transportation installs the new

signs, the entire neighborhood is enjoying a summer-long alternate-side-of-the-street amnesty. But during the changeover, street sweepers have not been able to get to the curb because cars are not required to leave one side of the street empty for the traditional three hours.

And, as our photographer discovered this week, the gutter is getting cluttered.

So Community Board 6 District Manager Craig Hammerman is asking locals to be filth hunters.

"Any superficial litter is an unfortunate but temporary by-product of the suspension of the street cleaning regulations," he said. "We encourage property owners to be even more vigilant in keeping their sidewalks and gutters clean."

## A mail-strom in Kensington

By Ben Muesel

The Brooklyn Paper

The Postal Service has a simple solution for improving service at its notoriously bad Kensington branch — sending the customers elsewhere.

Postal officials are hoping to put a satellite post office — officially, a "contract postal unit" — in an existing retail space.

The result could be shorter lines and less stress for customers at the infamous McDonald Avenue station.

"The intention is to provide the best service we can in each station, but there are times when the traffic flow is very heavy, so we try to give our customers choices," said Postal spokesman Bob Trombley.

A contract postal unit is a mini-post office located inside a store — usually a supermarket, pharmacy or office supplies shop — that provides all of the services that regular post offices provide, except for money orders, Trombley said.

Businesses staff the satellite post office with their own employees — then get increased foot traffic and a percentage of postal sales, Trombley said.

He added that the planned unit — which would be the 19th in Brooklyn — would draw customers away from the Kensington Station, shortening the wait at the branch.

But customers say that with the slow service, rude staff, and misplaced mail, they don't need much encouragement to stay away from the Kensington station, a branch with a bad reputation that only got worse



After years of complaints about the Kensington post office, the USPS now says it will open a satellite station in the neighborhood.

when a video of an outraged customer went viral in December, 2006 (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdrlrLdYArI>).

Was it the video — which has received more than 125,000 views on YouTube — that motivated the Postal Service to improve service? Or an overriding desire by the Postal Service to improve service?

"Nothing spurred us on to do it other

than providing alternate means of access to the customer," Trombley said.

Elected officials support the idea of a second postal station instead of fixing the existing one.

"We hope that having a contract postal unit would alleviate some of the pressure the post office," said Jean Weinberg, a spokeswoman for Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope). "The community is growing, and business owners and residents deserve a functioning postal facility."

Even employees at the Kensington branch are eager about the possibility of a contract postal unit.

"If we could get one, it would be good," said Kensington Station Manager Richard Chin. "It would help the customers so they wouldn't have to wait in line."

But there is one big problem — the Postal Service has not yet found the right store to house the pint-sized post office.

"We've been canvassing the Kensington area, but we've yet to find a retail space that ... is interested in participating," Trombley said.

Michael Jording, manager of the Key Food on Prospect Avenue, said that if he had the space, he'd consider housing the unit — if only to improve postal service in the neighborhood.

"I'm getting everybody's mail but my own," Jording said. "Every day I go through my mail and I've got letters for all my neighbors. Last time I went there I told them, 'I feel like I'm the one working for the post office.'"

## Park Slope school has run-in with thugs

By Marie Cunningham

The Brooklyn Paper

Three young hoodlums who had just mugged a man — on his birthday no less! — tried to evade police by hiding in Park Slope's Berkeley Carroll School on June 3.

The perp, a 17-year-old and two 15-year-olds, allegedly attacked the 45-year-old man on First Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues at 9 a.m.

The victim told cops that one of the boys punched him, threw him to the ground and took some items from him.

The thugs fled, turned left onto Fifth Avenue, then right onto Carroll Street — on a course towards the private school, cops said.

Trying to avoid police capture, the boys hopped a fence and attempted to enter the pre-K and kindergarten building.

But a school security guard spotted the crooks and they turned back. Within a half-hour,

police had collared all three.

Administrators sent out a mass e-mail to parents soon after the school grounds were breached to explain why nearly a dozen crop cars — and two helicopters — were hovering around the building.

"It was important to reassure parents that we have an emergency plan we're able to use at a moments notice," said Jodie Conroy, director of communications at the school. She added that at no point did the threesome encounter any students.

But the arrests and the school e-mail blast did not calm all the frayed nerves.

For the past two years, we have made repeated requests for Berkeley Carroll to ramp up security, such as installing security cameras, one angry parent told The Brooklyn Paper. "These crooks were inches away from my kid and dozens of other kids."

## 'Hot' damn! Chinese spot on 7th to reopen

By Sarah Portlock

The Brooklyn Paper

Four months is a long time to go without decent General Tso's chicken, but South Slope's patience will be rewarded when a new Chinese restaurant opens in the former Red Hot Szechuan spot on Seventh Avenue at 10th Street this summer.

It's just going to be exactly like Red Hot, said commercial broker Maria Mackin, who brokered the deal with the new restaurant's owners. "That's good because the neighborhood really liked Red Hot."

The space will undergo "minor renovations" before its Aug. 1 opening date, and it is tentatively called "Red Hot 2."

Mackin said.

Owners of the original restaurant closed it in late February for personal reasons.

Longtime Red Hot Szechuan fan Edward Levine, whose fa-



Red Hot Szechuan restaurant, which was closed for four months, is set to reopen as Red Hot 2.

vorite dish was chicken in black bean sauce, said everyone was baffled at the time.

"No one really understood why they closed," he said. "It seemed very odd because if there was a restaurant that was making money, it was Red Hot. It was absolutely jam-packed constantly."

That said, he's optimistic about the future.

"The fact that Red Hot 2 is opening is a very good sign — you never want to have an empty retail space on your block ... so it's great to have the neighborhood filled out again," he said.

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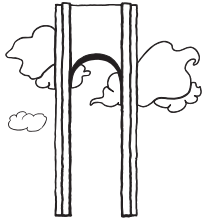
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# THE stoop

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## If Key Food closes, grocery to move in?



Borough President Markowitz and Councilman Vince Gentile (center) joined protesters demanding that the Key Food on Third Avenue remain open.

**By Ben Muessig**  
The Brooklyn Paper

In Bay Ridge, Walgreens might actually carry greens. The chain drug store that is slated to replace a popular Key Food supermarket will sell produce and fresh meat, state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) announced at a rally in front of the Third Avenue grocery on May 31 — but Walgreens officials aren't making any promises.

Golden said that the pharmacy giant made the promise in discussions with his office and said that Walgreens officials will meet with a task force of Ridge residents to ensure that the new pharmacy will fulfill the community's needs.

"They have agreed to put the supermarket here, they have agreed to put produce and meat at this location, and they have agreed to sit with the community," Golden told a crowd of about 150 Ridgians in front of

the 95th Street supermarket, which will close at the end of the month.

Walgreens officials say they are open to hearing suggestions from neighbors, but would not go as far as Golden suggested they would on produce and fresh meat — items that are not available at other Walgreens locations.

"We don't want to promise what we can't deliver," said Walgreens' spokeswoman Carol Hively. "Those aren't guarantees we can make at this point. It would certainly be too soon."

The closing of Key Food is a hot-button issue in Bay Ridge, where residents gathered more than 1,400 signatures on a petition to keep the grocery or replace it with another supermarket. Shoppers say they need a grocery at 95th Street because the next nearest grocery — the Foodtown on 91st Street and Third Avenue — is too far for the elderly and sick.

## Flush with success

**By Gersh Kuntzman**  
The Brooklyn Paper

Kings County will finally get its own throne. Six months after installing the city's first automatic public toilet in Manhattan, the city announced last week that Bay Ridge's 69th Street pier — a popular gathering place for all but those needing a restroom — would get one of the fancy, self-cleaning outhouses.

How big a deal is this? Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) put out a press release heralding the news.

"This facility will serve to accommodate many people who regularly come to the Veterans Memorial Pier," he said.

The installation of the next four toilets — two in Brooklyn, two in Queens — is part of



**Good news, urinators!** The Department of Transportation is expanding its public toilet program — and one of these fancy flushers will be installed at the foot of the 69th Street pier.

the city's much-larger, 20-year "coordinated street furniture" contract with Cemusa, a maker

of bus shelters, newsstands and, yes, toilets.

The largest part of the \$1.4-billion contract consists of the 3,300 new bus shelters citywide — but the toilet is, believe it or not, the sexiest part of the deal.

"Restrooms are an essential part of a livable city and we will not 'stall' until we have world-class amenities and public spaces in New York," said Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan.

Eventually, Sadik-Khan said, there will be 20 toilets spread across the five boroughs.

Users pay 25 cents to access the facilities, which go out of service for 90 seconds after each use for self-cleaning.

Gentile said he was especially pleased with the site selection because he has long envisioned restored ferry service to the 69th Street pier.

"Once faced with hundreds of daily riders, this would be a key location for a restroom," he said.

The other Brooklyn toilet will be at the corner of Marcus Garvey Boulevard and Broadway in Bushwick.

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## Coney Island strip mall?



The guys who gave us the city's only drive-through Starbucks (below) now want to build this modern-ish strip mall on Cropsey Avenue, the gateway to Coney Island.

**By Ben Muessig**  
The Brooklyn Paper

The man who brought the city's only drive-through Starbucks to Cropsey Avenue is bringing more retail to the dreary Gateway to Coney Island — and he says it might kick-start the drag's transition into a shopping destination.

Developer Marc Esrig is building a glassy, 14,000-square-foot retail space with a parking lot on Cropsey Avenue at Hart Place, directly across the street from the Starbucks and Linens 'n Things that he developed in 2004, and down the block from a Home Depot.

Construction could be finished as early as mid-July and Esrig says he is in negotiations with three national chains as prospective tenants: a women's clothing store, a home furnishings store, and a restaurant (which he promises will not be a McDonald's or a Subway).

"You're going to start seeing that natural progression where auto body shops get forced out," said Esrig of Vista Realty Partners. "That's not to say that Prada or Coach is moving in tomorrow, but maybe you'll have a Dunkin' Donuts move in, or a pizza place, or a Radio Shack."

And as the redevelopment of Coney Island inches forward, some Coney officials are excited about Esrig's plans to bring a clothing shop, a home furnis-

ing store, and a restaurant to a key access road for the amusement district.

"Cropsey Avenue is becoming busy and all of those things might go over really well," said Community Board 13 District Manager Chuck Reichenthal.

"The local diner — which was only a block away — closed down, so a restaurant sounds like a potentially good idea," he said.

But Dick Zigun, Coney Island's unofficial mayor, isn't as



keen about Esrig's plans.

"In an ideal Coney Island, Cropsey Avenue between Neptune Avenue and Hart Place would see large parking garages on either side and the ground floor of such garages would be trolley bays and waiting stations for a revival of the Surf Avenue trolleys," Zigun said.

"Such parking garages would be useful for the amusement park and also serve the unofficial shopping mall that is already replacing the auto body stores," he said.

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# New day dawning over the Gowanus

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

The foul Gowanus Canal zone would be reborn as a mixed-use neighborhood of housing, commerce, light industry and — here's the kicker — green open space under the city's long-awaited rezoning plan unveiled last week.

The Bloomberg Administration proposal for the area north of Third Street prominently calls for public access along the canal and incentives for developers to create below-market-rate housing.

The proposal is the culmination of years of community effort — and follows a rezoning framework that the city issued last year. The long-term goal is to use zoning changes to encourage a different approach to canal-side development.

The changes were received mildly in PS 25's auditorium last Thursday — with some residents congratulating the Department of City Planning, while others speculating that manufacturing would lose out to housing in the mixed-use sections.

"Residential [development] tends to move in because you get more bang for your buck in the mixed-use zone," said Dan Wiley, a staffer for Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-Gowanus).

In all, 60 blocks around the canal were considered for the major rezoning, but in the end, the city decided to include about 25 blocks. The rest will remain zoned for manufacturing. That area is enough to support manufacturing uses, supporters said.

"They've done a beautiful job coming up with plan for preserving manufacturing jobs," said Buddy Scott, a longtime advocate for cleaning the canal and bringing housing to the area.

Some couldn't believe the city would forecast a residential community along the banks of one of New York's filthiest waterways.

"It's been polluted my whole life, and they're selling it like it's Disneyland," said Anthony Pugliese, a member of Community Board 6.

City Planning officials insisted that various environmental agencies are committed to decontaminating the heart of Brooklyn's industrial corridor.

Such a cleanup would take many years at toxic sites like the

## The new Gowanus?

The city hopes that rezoning 25 blocks around the Gowanus Canal to mixed use from manufacturing will trigger a neighborhood renaissance of housing, commerce, industry and open space along the canal. Here's what will change, under the city plan.



so-called Public Place, bounded roughly by Fifth, Huntington and Smith streets and the canal. The site is not part of the City Planning proposal but a developer has already been selected to build 774 units of housing there — pending the cleanup.

To its side, developers are drooling over the potential of the Lavender Lake, the soupy sludge between tony Park Slope and Carroll Gardens.

Toll Brothers, which wants to build 447 units of luxury and low-market-rate housing on its site bounded by Bond, Carroll and Second streets and the canal — inside the rezoning area — felt confident that its plan will have the city's support.

Building heights, a perennial neighborhood issue, will vary across the new district. Along the canal, residential towers could rise as high as 12 stories, though on some side streets, housing would be limited to 50 feet.

Those who would question 12-story buildings in the low-rise neighborhood were reminded by city officials that without such a front-front towers, there will be no public open space.

Residential development must include a 40-foot ribbon of public space while industrial properties are exempt. In the core of proposed commercial area — Third Avenue, from Sackett to First streets, and Union Street from Nevins Street to Fourth Avenue — buildings would be capped at 80 feet, about eight stories.

## DeBlasio: No room for inns along canal

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

A local lawmaker wants the city to ban hotels near the northern end of the Gowanus Canal in what has become the surprisingly hot "Gowanus Canal Hotel District," saying that the three existing lodges and four more on the way are undermining the dwindling manufacturing base and could attract unseemly characters.

Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) issued his call hours before the Department of City Planning unveiled its proposal to turn 25 blocks of the canal zone into a thriving mixed-use neighborhood of housing, commerce, and, yes, industry (see main story).

"Simply put, there's no place for hotels in the Gowanus Canal area. They just don't fit," DeBlasio said outside PS 32 on Hoyt Street, where the meeting with City Planning took place. "[Some] areas of the rezoning are meant to be manufacturing and preserve local jobs — not add to the burden of height, density and overcrowding of our community."

But city officials don't appear to share DeBlasio's vision of a single use for property near the notorious canal.

"We are proposing mixed-use areas in which a broad range of development choices, including residential, light industrial, office uses and retail, as well as hotels, are appropriate," said City Planning spokeswoman Jennifer Torres. "We are aware of concerns about hotels, but must balance that against the fact that the hotel industry is an important industry for the city's economy."

City zoning allows hotels to be built without zoning changes in some manufacturing areas, such as those around Gowanus Canal, where a Holiday Inn Express, a Comfort Inn and the boutique Hotel Le Bleu have already opened.

DeBlasio's sudden attack on the hospitality industry comes as hoteliers continue to flock to the hard-to-tourist-brochure-beautiful Gowanus area because of its relatively cheap land, subway access, and proximity to posh Park Slope and Carroll Gardens, increasingly popular tourist destinations themselves.

But DeBlasio and some neighborhood activists believe that hotels could hasten the transformation of the industrial nook of the northern Gowanus into a residential neighborhood.

"It's a back door to residential development. I hate to be cynical, but we have to be on the lookout for that," said Gary Reilly, a Carroll Gardens resident.

Worse, these critics say, if respectable tourism to Brooklyn plummets, the new hotels might start charging hourly rates and attracting a seedier clientele.

Hotel Le Bleu General Manager Robert Gaeta objected to DeBlasio's proposed ban, even though it would eliminate competition for his and the other existing hotels.

"We provided 40 jobs that weren't in Brooklyn before we came here," said Gaeta, also mentioning the money tourists spend in local businesses.

Banning hotels "would go against the trend in America today of shifting from manufacturing to the service industry," he said.

## Ridge synagogue for sale

Echos of 'Green Church' as house of worship goes on market

By Ben Muesseg  
The Brooklyn Paper

A Bay Ridge synagogue with a shrinking congregation decided this week to tear down its sanctuary and sell a portion of its Fourth Avenue property to a developer.

In an echo of the neighborhood's famed "Green Church" controversy, the Bay Ridge Jewish Center — whose existing synagogue can hold 600 of the faithful, even though it has but 100 members — plans to

sell more than half of its land.

"We've been having financial problems for a long time," said Congregation President Herb Karasik. "And now we're a very small congregation in this big building. We have to downsize — we just can't afford not to."

The congregation overwhelmingly agreed, voting 70 to 3 on Wednesday night to sell the property. The sale will underwrite the construction of a smaller synagogue on the remaining land, which is at the corner of 81st Street.

Karasik said that no programs will be cut — in fact, the sale of the property might free up enough cash to start new programs.

The Bay Ridge Jewish Center is just 11 blocks south of the 108-year-old United Methodist Church — dubbed "The Green Church" for its verdant facade — whose congregants enraged neighbors when they voted to tear it down to make room for condo development. That sale is also slated to raise cash to

build a smaller, easier-to-maintain facility.

In both cases, shrinking congregations fall victim to the burden of maintaining overly large facilities.

And both sites are highly coveted by residential developers. Of course, there's one key difference between the sales of the two houses of worship: The Green Church is eligible for inclusion on the National Registry of Historic Places. The Bay Ridge Jewish Center is not.



The Bay Ridge Jewish Center will tear down this synagogue, sell some land to a developer, and build a smaller temple for its 100 congregants.

## PIRATE OF BILLYBALL...

Continued from page 1

their image," said Dan Clark, coach of Never Scared, a squad named after a song by rapper Bone Crusher.

"They are one of the more trash-talking teams, they're loudmouthed dudes, but they're really good dudes and they're really good for the league," he said.

The Pirates (officially Los Piratas Mecánicos) are known around McCarran Park for everything except for their on-field performance. Universally considered one of the Brooklyn Kickball's weaker teams, the squad is mostly famous for decorating its dugout with skulls and crossbones, throwing water balloons and shooting fireworks during games — antics that haven't earned them many friends in the league.

But even Jackson's harshest rivals believe that the blade was just a prop.

"Everything the Pirates do has to be taken with a grain of salt," said Wendy Gallo of The Sentinels. "They know how to push people's buttons, but I don't think it was anything malicious. It's irresponsible, but I don't think he should suffer over it."

League Commissioner Kevin Dailey agreed, choosing not to suspend Jackson over the charges, which he considered overblown.

"I don't think it's a sword. I think it's a toy," Dailey said. "To my knowledge, it's not a

weapon. I've never heard anyone say, 'That guy is bringing something that could kill me.' If I do see somebody with an actual weapon, I'll ask them to leave."

But police weren't as lenient. Jackson spent that Sunday night in jail, forcing to miss that evening's games. Jackson will join

The Pirates in his first game back on June 8, where he'll be able to showcase what his team does best.

"We just actually have fun," he said. "There is no reason to take stats and argue. It's just kickball. We keep that lightness in mind."

Spoken like a true Pirate.

## FOURTH AVENUE...

Continued from page 1

altery of transit riding."

Other MTA critics said it was disingenuous for the plans to be touted publicly only to be quietly dropped months later.

"They have to have a public dialogue," said Gene Russianoff of the Straphangers Campaign.

Local subway riders were just as withering in their rebuke to the agency.

"It's a bad thing that it's not going to be remodeled," said Rosanny Fernandez. "When

you're waiting for the train, you want to feel like you get what you paid for."

Others said the refurbishments were not a priority compared to the condition of other stations.

"I was really excited that they were going to redo it, but my first reaction was that they should do Smith-Ninth first," said Jeremy Olsen, who lives nearby on 11th Street.

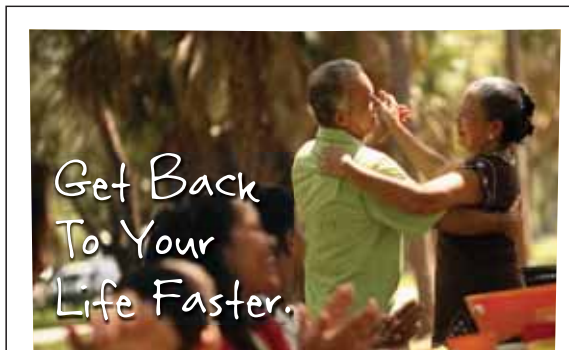
Looks like the MTA agrees with him.

Of course, it's not the first time that a much-ballyhooed improvement went from front-

turner to back (or, more accurately, into the basement).

Following a fare hike and weeks after promising to spend \$30 million on expanded service in his state of the MTA address in March, Elliott Sander, the agency's executive director, backtracked on the promise, forcing Brooklynites to forgo bus service from Red Hook to Manhattan, better G-train service, an extension to the B67 to Fulton Ferry in DUMBO, and other improvements.

—with Marie Cunningham



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## NEIGH

Continued from page 1

tem along the path — but such a thing would cost millions.

The area most affected by erosion at the base of Look-out Hill — on the south side of the 150-year-old Olmsted and Vaux-designed greensward. This stretch is busiest because it connects Kensington Stables, which is near the Park Circle entrance at the southeast corner of the park, to a riding ring just inside the 15th Street entrance.

Thomas was sympathetic to the horses and their owners, but added that repairs to the bridle paths are "not something in the top priority" right now.

Despite the disrepair along the horse trail, Prospect Park remains a convenient destination for those who want to get back in the saddle again.

"The poor trail quality is more than made up by having a horse in New York City 15 minutes from your home," said Dennis O'Neal, who's been boarding his mare, Gertrude, at Kensington Stables for six years.

"The trails are not maintained [and] they suffer from neglect," added O'Neal.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 7, 2008

# Punk & drunk

Mike Edison's revealing new memoir is a rollicking ride

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

Perhaps you know him as the fea-wearing man on YouTube.com, smoking the ChronicCaster — a working-guitar lilted from the set of the film, "High Times Potluck."

Or maybe his name is familiar because of his stint as publisher of "High Times" magazine. Or, if you remember when punk music ruled Manhattan's darker corners — when Manhattan had dark corners! — you may know him as a member of numerous bands: Sharky's Machine, Raunch Hands, Reagan Youth, Lunachicks, GG Allin.

Really, Mike Edison is a legend — if you're to believe his spectacularly gripping memoir, "I Have Fun Everywhere I Go: Savage Tales of Pot, Punk, Punk Rock, Pro Wrestling, Talking Apes, Evil Bosses, Dirty Blues, American Heroes, and the Most Notorious Magazines in the World."

While Edison has recorded lots of albums, and played hundreds of performances around the world in various bands — and most recently with his Rocket Train Delta Science Arkestra, which features Jon Spencer (of Blues Explosion fame) — what he wants desperately is to be embraced as a serious writer. Edison said he turned down an offer of more dough at a more commercial publisher to go with Faber and Faber, an affiliate of Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, because he wanted to publish a quality book.

And this from an author who referred to the readers of his former employer, "Main Event" magazine, as "marks?"

Despite his lofty goals, it isn't beneath him to do anything to get his book into the hands of readers — or better yet, buyers. This includes transforming the typical author reading from a success into a spoken-word performance with his band, with whom he recorded a CD of the same name. (Even the CD is another avenue he invented to raise awareness of the book.)

"At Pete's [Candy Store in Williamsburg], I will do a set with my band — it's very Beatnik, pop, psychedelic," Edison told GO Brooklyn over sushi. "I do very funny, very X-rated material about drugs, pornography and Jews for Jesus, and after everyone calms down, we'll



Check out Mike Edison's 'I Have Fun Everywhere I Go' at the Brooklyn Paper's online spots.

**Born to sleaze:** Author-musician Mike Edison will perform spoken word from his memoir "I Have Fun Everywhere I Go" in Williamsburg and the Columbia Street Waterfront District this month.

blast blues and punk rock with my other band, the Edison Rocket Train."

And at Freebird Books & Goods in the Columbia Street Waterfront District, Edison said he'll most likely be accompanied by his "interstellar groove machine, a Casio, spray painted gold with a therramin Velocord to it."

Edison's earnest literary aspirations are as much of a surprise as his editorial resume, which is so riddled with fifth one feels the need to don a full-body prophylactic just to handle it. It describes — to great comic effect — the office culture at "Helter," "Screw," "Cheri," "Soft Drinks & Beer" and more.

"It's pre-Internet sleaze culture," confirmed Edison.

While the subject matter might be lowbrow at best (covering pro wrestling) and downright sleazy at worst (reminiscing at length about penning 28 pornographic novels), "I Have Fun" is a rollicking joyride peppered with rip-roaring anecdotes that will end up eliciting uneasy giggles on the subway.

Edison's stories are so outlandish, they tempt readers to compare them with other recent memoirs that turned out to be less than accurate. But Edison insists his stories — "weeding his boss for the top job at 'Main Event,'" sleep-

## NIGHTLIFE

Mike Edison will perform excerpts from his memoir, "I Have Fun Everywhere I Go" (Faber and Faber, Inc., \$25) at Freebird Books (123 Columbia St. between Kane and DeGraw streets in the Columbia Street Waterfront District) 7/18, 8/4, 8/14 and on June 12 at 7:30 pm. He will also read at Pete's Candy Store (709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg) 7/18, 8/2, 8/7, 8/14 and on June 19 at 7:30 pm, followed by a 9 pm performance with his band the Rocket Train Delta Science Arkestra.

ing just once a week for months on end while on drug-fueled benders, etc. — are all true.

"I Have Fun" is remarkably lucid and well researched — with pop culture riffs on the wrestling scene — before and after the advent of the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) and nostalgia for the once prevalent "buzzbe," a marijuana-filled frisco. But that makes it even more suspect. It invites the question: "Can a musician pen such a well-written story?" It's even more incredible that he survived his drug-saturated years between 14 and 30.

He claims that he never went to rehab! Not once.

"This book is a celebration," said Edison. "I don't dabble in dark drugs. I don't do smack or serious downers, but drugs that make you go zoom or psychedelics that expand your mind. And the drug is never the activity itself. Drugs aren't the problem; daytime TV is the problem. If you're tweaking and watching TV, of course your teeth are going to fall out. But if you're at a Motocade concert — or better yet, in Motocade, then you got no problem."

This writer wouldn't have been so skeptical if Edison wasn't so coherent, hilarious, and articulate during our interview. No signs of brain damage — or fatigue — were evident in this 43-year-old author editor at Backbeat Books.

Now that his tell-all is published, the sky's the limit.

"My next move is to run for president," said Edison. "I've got nothing left to hide."

## SPORTS

### Have a ball!

As summer sportsmen dust off their tennis whites, a gaggle of Williamsburgers are preparing for their own summer racket ritual: "Wimblebladen."

A tournament of virtual tennis played on a Nintendo Wii gaming system, the daylong event — now in its second year — pits players, who are encouraged to attend in tennis outfits of their own design, against one another for glory and prizes.

Organizer Steve Bryant said the inspiration for the event was simple: "Our inability to have a big party in a studio apartment."

Last year, over 400 hopefuls showed up, although only 128 competitors are allowed to play. (Pre-registration is advised, but walk-in spots will be available.) So, while some aspects of the tournament are similar to the real deal — three games to a match — and some are unique to "Wimblebladen" — open bar from noon to 3 pm — organizers stress that the event isn't just a rainy day alternative to the courts.

Asked if he played tennis outside of the videogame variety, Bryant asked, "Is that like badminton?"

"Wimblebladen" will take place from 10 am to 5 pm on June 7 at Barcade (288 Union Ave. at Arlene Street in Williamsburg). Participation is free. For information and registration, visit [www.wimblebladen.net](http://www.wimblebladen.net). — Adam Rathe

## ART

### 'Candy' store

When Rae McGrath moved to Bedford-Stuyvesant three years ago, he wasn't sure that the area was ready for his vision. But thanks to plenty of hard work, McGrath's baby, the Brooklynite Gallery, will open on Tuesday. And he thinks it's not a moment too soon.

"This neighborhood is really starting to come around," he said. "Three years ago, this wouldn't have been possible."

There's still a lot of crime that needs to be addressed, but the people that are here want change, and the response [to the gallery] has been overwhelming.

And it hasn't even opened yet! When it does, the gallery, run by McGrath and his wife Hop, will feature "pop art with a street edge," including its debut show, "Noise Candy" by Canarsie native BAST (his "Video 8," pictured, is a silkscreen print with spray paint).

"It's not graffiti, it's much more evolved," McGrath said about the work, which will be displayed inside the 500-square-foot space and on the 800-square-foot terrace. "I honestly believe this gallery is the first wave of change here."

The opening reception for "Noise Candy" is 7 pm to 9 pm on June 10 at Brooklynite Gallery (334 Malcolm Blvd. at Bainbridge Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant). Admission is free. For information, call (947) 405-9976 or visit [www.brooklynitegallery.com](http://www.brooklynitegallery.com). — Adam Rathe

## THEATER

### Barge right in

Get back on board with CIRCUSundays! The Waterfront Museum's beloved circus show on a boat has returned to Red Hook.

Every Sunday this June, the Waterfront Museum will present a new show — complete with clowns, jugglers, acrobats and more — aboard its restored 1914 wooden barge.

"It's a variety show that hosts a lot of unusual and eccentric acts and approaches what one might have seen on a showboat," Waterfront Museum President David Sharps told GO Brooklyn. "It's steeped in showboat tradition and also features the performers of tomorrow."

This year, Dikki Ellis (aka The Clown Prince of Slackwire, pictured) will perform on June 29 and on June 22, 18-year-old acrobat Alci St will perform a kind of "ballet in the air" above the audience.

CIRCUSundays are at 1 pm and 4 pm through June 29 at the Waterfront Museum (290 Conover St. at Pier 44 in Red Hook). Tickets ordered in advance are \$16 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and younger, \$18/\$12 at the door. For more information, visit [www.waterfrontmuseum.org](http://www.waterfrontmuseum.org). — Kate Ray

## Summer 'Hayes'

When "Celebrate Brooklyn" kicks off its 30th year on Thursday, the opening night entertainment will come from R&B legend Isaac Hayes. Known for hits like "Don't Let Go" and "By the Time I Get to Phoenix," Hayes — who formerly lent his voice to Cher on "South Park" — will open a season that features performances by everyone from Dierks Bentley to Joan Osborne and the Mark Morris Dance Group. GO Brooklyn caught up with the singer during a break from recording his new album in Memphis and had a chance to chat about Hayes's

live music, ex-girlfriends and his favorite picnic food.

**GO Brooklyn:** Are you excited to be coming back to Brooklyn to open the season of performances in Prospect Park?

**Isaac Hayes:** It's a fun place! I used to date a girl who lived in Brooklyn, and some of the people I work with live there, too.

**GO:** What can fans expect from your show?

**IH:** All the usual — the old songs

like "Walk on By" and "Shaft" [are still popular].

**GO:** And you'll be playing songs from the new album you're working on, too?

**IH:** All the times! It's got some new songs and some classics. I got 10 people in my band, they play keyboards and guitars and bass. I think there's a real party atmosphere.

**GO:** Lots of people pack picnics for the concerts in the park. What snacks do you think are the best to bring along to an Isaac Hayes concert?

**IH:** Fried chicken.

**GO:** What do you have planned for the rest of the summer?

**IH:** [After the show in Prospect Park], I'll come back to Memphis and go in the studio. I'll probably go on the road again — to Atlanta and Los Angeles. Just getting ready for the new album!

Isaac Hayes will perform at 8 pm on June 12 at the Prospect Park band shell (entrance park at Prospect Park West and 15th Street). Admission is free. The gala begins at 5:30 pm, and tickets are \$200. For information, call (718) 855-7882 or visit [www.celebratebrooklyn.org](http://www.celebratebrooklyn.org). — Adam Rathe



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**Dear Drowning:**

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The pros of hiring an independent cleaning person: 1) there is a more personal relationship; 2) you can keep your cost down, with the average pay ranging from \$10-\$20 dollars per hour. Cons: 1) You run the risk of theft and property damage; 2) you risk possible lawsuits should they become hurt in your home, so there can be worker's comp issues; 3) if your person forgets to pay taxes on the money you pay them, you can be held liable; 4) they have no supervision (have you ever said any of those things? "She started off great, but recently she has been slacking off... she leaves earlier and earlier... She doesn't do anything I say... the service is inconsistent... She ruined the finish on my antique table by using a harsh chemical cleaner... But I'm afraid to lose her because I trust her, and she has been with us so long.")

When hiring a professional cleaning service you reduce your own personal and property risks. All taxes, liability, and worker's comp concerns are the responsibility of the service (which should be insured and bonded). Service techs are not only trained to understand and clean special surfaces/floors but understand customer service, to insure your consistent satisfaction. Another positive feature: you are released of the uncomfortable burden of correcting poor service and all that is required is a telephone call to the service team manager or owner, who will do the follow up and correction for you. After all, you hired a service to manage your cleaning needs so YOU don't have to!

Here are some important questions to ask when interviewing cleaning services: 1) Are they insured and bonded? 2) How do they hire, and do they do background checks? 3) How are customer complaints handled, and how do they provide quality control? 4) Do they provide the cleaning supplies and equipment? 5) Are they "green minded" and use environmentally safe products? 6) Are they flexible with cleaning plans, payments? And a reputable business will stand by guarantees, build their business on a reputation of ethics and stronger customer satisfaction.

Making a decision based on a low price often means the level of your satisfaction will diminish.

*Wishing you much luck in your endeavor!*

**McClean@CleanGreenMaid.com**  
**718.383-0875**

**WHERE TO GO**

**EDITORS' PICKS**

**SATURDAY June 7**

**Waxing Brazilian**  
Today, Red Hook boogie baroness Le-Nell Smothers hosts a Brazilian-themed blowout with "batidas," drinks made with cachaca, the popular, sugarcane-based liquor, traditional music and a barbecue. Make sure to wear your summer finest and memorize the phrase "um, uai," which is Portuguese for "one more."  
Noon to midnight: LeNell's (416 Van Brunt St., at Coffey Street in Red Hook). Free. For information, call (718) 360-0838 or visit www.lenell.com.

**SUNDAY June 8**

**'Burg BQ**  
Williamsburg watering hole Peter's Candy Store launches its summer-long backyard BBQ this evening, with burgers and hot dogs — both meat and veggie varieties will be available — and all the traditional fixings. And if relaxing by the Japanese maple trees isn't your scene, head inside to check out the popular open mic night.  
5 pm: Peter's Candy Store (709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg). \$6 for dinner. For information, call (718) 320-1770 or visit www.peterscandystore.com.

**TUESDAY June 10**

**Take a 'Cab'**  
Guilty pleasure emo-rock band Death Cab For Cutie hits the McCarran Park Pool in Williamsburg tonight, bringing the songs from its seventh and latest record, "Narrow Stairs," to a crowd of admirers. Openers, Oakland, Calif.-based Rogue Wave are there to keep the indie cred level up.  
7 pm: McCarran Park Pool (Lorimer and Bayard streets in Greenpoint). \$42.50. For information, call (212) 307-7171 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

**THURSDAY June 12**

**Purple 'Hayes'**  
The 30th year of "Celebrate Brooklyn," the Prospect Park-based summer performance series that runs through August, kicks off tonight with a gala dinner and a concert by soul and funk legend Isaac Hayes (see page 7 for more Hayes). Here's to another summer worth celebrating!  
5:30 pm gala, 8 pm concert. The Prospect Park band shell (enter park at Prospect Park West and 15th Street). Dinner is \$300 and up, concert is free. For information, call (718) 855-7882 or visit www.celebratebrooklyn.org.

**FRIDAY June 13**

**'Court' date**  
"American Playground Film Series" pays tribute to British horror star Hazel Court (pictured) with a screening of her 1963 B-movie classic, "The Raven." Court shares the screen with creepy costars Vincent Price, Boris Karloff and a still-handsome Jack Nicholson.  
8 pm, American Playground (Franklin Avenue at Noble Street in Greenpoint). Free. For information, visit www.cineciti.org.

**NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN**  
Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

**SAT, JUNE 7**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**

**ECO CRUISE:** Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy hosts a cruise from the Gowanus Canal to the 15th annual Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival. Crew and participants dress in Renaissance costumes. Venetian-style accommodations 21 paddlers at a time. Registration required. (718) 802-9874. Free.

**RED COAT TOUR:** Fort Greene Park Visitor Center offers an exploration of historic Fort Greene. Call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers. Free.

**STUDIO TOUR:** First annual Flatbush Artists studio tour. Noon to 5 pm. (718) 826-1261. Free.

**ART WALK:** Fifth annual walk includes open art studios, public installations, special events and more. 1 pm to 5 pm. On Atlantic Avenue from Third Avenue to Hick Street. www.atlanticavenuewalk.com. Free.

**PERFORMANCE**

**ALVIN AILEY:** The Joyce Theater presents Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Program: Best of Alvin Ailey, includes "The Groove to Nobody's Business" and "Revelations." \$20 to \$70. 2 pm and 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

**INDIE ROCK:** Folklore Urbano and the Mariachi Academy of New York perform. 2 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch, Grand Army Plaza (718) 238-0100. Free.

**PIANO RECITAL:** NYPO Office Choir performs his first solo piano recital to benefit the Brooklyn Music School. 5:15, 5:45 children and adults. 6 pm. 126 St. Felix St. (718) 638-5460.

**OPERA:** Regina Opera presents Verdi's "Il Trovatore." Fully staged in Italian. Superb vocalists and a 30-piece orchestra. \$20, \$15 seniors and students, \$5 teens, free for children. 7 pm. Regina Hall, corner 65th Street and 12th Avenue. (718) 232-3555.

**COMMUNITY CHORUS:** Spring Concert of The Brooklyn Community Chorus. 60-plus members offer a program of Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Paul Simon, Randy Thompson, Irving Berlin, spirituals and a medley of television theme songs. \$10 includes refreshments and light supper. 7 pm. Old First Reformed Church, Seventh Avenue and Carroll Street. (718) 534-4540.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** hosts its 11th annual Black Box play festival. Today: "Kit and Little Books." 8 pm. \$18, \$14 for seniors and students. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

**BARGE MUSIC:** Classical music concert features works by Mozart, Dvorak and Schubert. \$35, \$15 students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

**651 ARTS:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents *Conductor Willem in concert*. \$56 to \$100. 8 pm. BAM Harvey Theater, 515 Fulton St. (718) 634-1100.

**OTHER**

**NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL:** celebrates Native American culture with dancing, song, food, music, crafts and more. 11 am to 7 pm. \$10, \$6 for seniors and children. 651 Arts Center Field. (718) 684-0012.

**FIRST SATURDAY:** at The Brooklyn Museum. Today: Kama Chandra: A Cross-Cultural Connection. Event features music, dance and art-making classes and more.

**Choke!** on this: Don't feel too badly if you missed the opening night party of "Sundance Institute at BAM" on May 29 — hosted by Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard (above). The fun continues with a screening of the film "Choke," based on Chuck Palahniuk's book, at the BAM Rose Cinemas on Saturday, June 7 at 9:30 pm followed by a Q&A with director Clark Gregg.

Dance party from 9 pm to 11 pm. 200 Eastern Pkwy. (718) 638-2000. Free.

**ART EXHIBIT:** Fairway Market hosts "Hungry for Art," a show featuring an interpretation of the Red Hook Waterfront scene. Artists will donate 50 percent of proceeds to their art to help of Hope Charity to help needy kids around the world. 5 pm to 10 pm. 480-520 Van Brunt St. (718) 624-8000.

**TAG SALE:** 50+ families host a sale. 9 am to 10 pm. 101 Calk St. (718) 875-8114.

**ARTISAN MARKET:** hosted by Fort Greene Park Conservancy. 9 am to 6 pm. Fort Greene Park, DeKalb Avenue sidewalk.

**YARD SALE:** hosted by John's Church. Costume jewelry, house wares, toys, books, clothing and more. 11 am to 4 pm. 99th Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway. (718) 745-0377.

**RED HOOK WATERFRONT ARTS FEST:** 15th annual event features musicians, dancers and spoken word artists. This year: "Growing Arts, Going Green," partnering with environmentally conscious, community organizations. 11 am to 7 pm. Valentino Park, Coffey and Ferns streets. (718) 643-6790. Free.

**ART WALK:** As part of the Atlantic Avenue Art Walk, Leslie Karly opens her studio. Noon to 6 pm. 138 St. Felix St. (718) 237-1975. www.lesliekarly30art.com. Free.

**BUSHWICK OPEN STUDIOS:** Meet Bushwick artists and see how work is produced. Noon to 7 pm. www.artinbushwick.org. \$871.204-1463. Free.

**GREEK FEST:** Annual event hosted by Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Brooklyn. Greek foods, flea market, music, games and more. 1 pm to 5 pm. 64 Schermerhorn St. (718) 624-0292.

**PIER SHOW:** Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition presents exhibit "Spring Ahead" featuring new works by more than 330 artists. 8 pm to 11 pm. Music with The Katerina Gillette Group. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507.

**OPENING PARTY:** Micro Museum presents 2008 BGG Ideas with "Animals in Your Kingdom." \$10. 8 pm to 11 pm. 123 Smith St. (718) 797-3116.

**MIX AND MEET:** Singles dance with live DJ. \$20 with buffet at 7:30 pm; \$5 without. Buffet at 8 pm. 16th St. and Avenue C. Gregory 8135 Fourth Ave. (718) 238-3737.

**OUT OF DARKNESS WALK:** Suicide fundraising 20-mile walk starts at dusk and ends at dawn. Meet at Cadman Plaza at 7 pm. www.thewalknyc.org.

**HEALTH FAIR:** Boy Scout Troop 20 hosts a health fair. 11 am to 3 pm. 811. BAM Rose Cinemas, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**SUNDANCE:** Screening of "Captain Abner Dodge" followed by Q&A with director Armin Malikian. 12:30 pm. 811. BAM Rose Cinemas, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**SUNDANCE:** Screening of "STRANDED: Five Come From a Plane that Crashed on the Mountains" followed by Q&A with director Gonzalo Arango. 3:30 pm. 811. BAM Rose Cinemas, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**SUNDANCE:** Screening of "Made in America" followed by Q&A with director See 9 DAYS on page 10

**CIVIC CALENDAR**

**MONDAY, JUNE 9**  
Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association. Monthly meeting. St. Mary's Site of the Sea apartments (at First St., between Hoyt and Bond streets). 7:30 pm. Email info@carrollgardensbrooklyn.org for info.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 10**  
72nd Precinct Community Council. Monthly meeting. Mariam Heim Center (4520 Fourth Ave., at 45th Street in Sunset Park). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 965-6311 for info. North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District. Community Forum.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11**  
90th Precinct Community Council. 30 Montrose Ave. between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg. 7:30 pm. Call (718) 963-5309 for info. Community Board 2. Full board meeting. Phoenix Career Academy (50 Jay St. between Water and Plymouth streets in DUMBO). 6 pm. Call (718) 596-5410 for info.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 12**  
Park Slope Civic Council. Annual awards ceremony and year-end party. Prospect Park YMCA (Ninth Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope). 6:30 pm. Visit www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org for info. Community Board 8. Full board meeting. Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (727 Classon Ave., between Park and Prospect parks). 7 pm. Call (718) 467-5574 for info.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Newsroom@brooklynpaper.com.

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*\$10 General Admission, \$8 seniors and students*

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*This program is made possible by the generous support of the Old First Church  
and the support of the community.*





'Arbor' days: 'Hope's Arbor' will be staged at the Gallery Players June 8, 12, 14 and 15.

# Back in 'Black'

Annual summer theater fest returns to Slope with two full-length premieres

By Adam Rathe  
The Brooklyn Paper

For the past 11 years, the Gallery Players' "Black Box New Play Festival" has brought new and un-produced work to the borough, but this year, the group is expanding its reach into another unexplored realm: Manhattan.

This year's festival, a co-production with socially conscious theater company Engine37, will mount two shows — "The Reckoning of Kit & Little Boots," an absurdist comedy about Caligula by Nat Cassidy, and "Hope's Arbor," about a boarding school prison break, by Rich Espey — at the Gallery Players' Park Slope theater and then move them into Manhattan Theater Source for six additional shows.

"Gallery Players Artistic Director" Heather Curran approached me about working on this festival about a year ago, and I thought it might be useful for the Gallery Players to gain some additional exposure. And by looking at doing a co-production," said Neal Freeman, a Players board member and artistic director of the Engine37, "the Gallery Players had something unique, their own theater, and we

had the ability to move shows to Manhattan. So it could be a win-win."

After reviewing more than 150 scripts, Freeman and Curran decided that, despite the festival's history of producing a number of one-act plays, they would choose one show and do a full-scale production. The problem was they couldn't pick just one.

"We found 'Hope's Arbor' first. I read it and thought it was a play I really wanted to do. Soon after that, we found Nat Cassidy's 'The Reckoning of Kit & Little Boots'."

## THEATER

**"The Reckoning of Kit & Little Boots"** and **"Hope's Arbor"** will run through June 21 at the Gallery Players (199 14th St., Fourth Avenue in Park Slope) and the Manhattan Theater Source (177 MacDougal St., at West Eighth Street in Manhattan). Tickets are \$18, \$14 for seniors and children. For information, call (718) 595-0547 or visit [www.galleryplayers.com](http://www.galleryplayers.com).

said's play and liked that one quite a lot as well," said Freeman. "We kicked it around in our heads and finally landed on the co-production idea as a way to make it more of an event."

"I was interested in doing full-lengths, because they're harder to do. There are a lot of little one-act festivals around, but we thought it would be riskier but would have a higher payoff."

And so far it has.

"It's been great. I don't have

too much to compare it to, though, since this is the first time that a show of mine has been given such a production," said Bay Ridge resident Cassidy, who wrote, and will also be acting in, "The Reckoning of Kit & Little Boots." "Neal and I have been working together on the script, so it's been a great collaborative experience."

Indeed, everyone involved with the productions is collaborating to an astounding degree. Not only do the shows share a set — despite "Reckoning" being set in Elizabethan England and "Hope's Arbor" in modern-day Connecticut — but with Curran and Freeman each directing a show, and Cassidy acting as both playwright and actor, everyone involved is wearing a number of hats (and that's before the costume department even gets involved).

For this grown-up drama club, though, all of the interaction is exhilarating.

This is the 11th year, and every year we've grown and tried new things," said Curran. "I think it's so great to have a place for a playwright to see their work fully realized. And at least in this format, the authors are getting even more out of the experience than having a [shorter] play done — it's really nice to fully realize a play in the way that we do all of the other works that we do."

## NYC DADS

New York City encourages dads to spend quality time with their children. Join us for our free events throughout the year.

# CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY AT THE BEACH

Sunday, June 15, 2008  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., KeySpan Park, Brooklyn

Free food, gifts, and games for kids and dads  
Special treat: watch the Brooklyn Cyclones practice  
R.S.V.P. at 212-331-6200

For more information on NYC DADS and other events this summer, call 311 or visit [NYC.gov/HRA](http://NYC.gov/HRA)

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# 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

## SUN, JUNE 8

**Jewish holiday of Shavuot begins tonight**

**WILD FOOD TOUR:** Naturalist "Wildlife" Steve Brill leads a Wild Food and Ecology tour of Prospect Park. Learn about the park's varied habitats, and see edible plants and greens. \$15 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and younger. The tour hour walking tour begins at 11:45 a.m. Meet at Prospect Park's Grand Army Plaza entrance. (718) 835-2153.

**ART WALK:** Includes open artist studios, public installations, special events and more. 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. On Atlantic Avenue from Third Avenue to Hyde Street. [www.artwalknewyork.com](http://www.artwalknewyork.com).

**HOUSE TOUR:** Victorian Flat-bush self-guided tour, featuring 10 historic homes. Walk the route, or take the trolley. \$20, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets at Temple Beth Emeth, 83 Marboough Rd. (718) 859-3800.

**NUTS ABOUT SQUIRRELS:** Urban Park Rangers offer facts about these nutty creatures. 1 p.m. Fort Greene Park, Visitor Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington. Free. [www.brooklyninfo.com](http://www.brooklyninfo.com).

## PERFORMANCE

**CIRCUS SUNDAYS:** Professional acts from around the world. \$15, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Waterfront Museum, 290 Conover St. (877) 238-5596.

**SPRING CONCERT:** The Park Slope Singers present its spring concert. Program features songs from Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado," a continuation of Mozart's "Vegetables of the Conscience" and Giuseppe's Cecilia Mass. Conductor: Rodolfo Johnson. \$10, 5:30 p.m. 230 Park St. Seaside Church, Eighth Avenue at Sixth Street. (718) 768-0585.

**FOLK FEST:** Brooklyn Arts Council's Folk Fest program presents "Folk Fest Circle Round Brooklyn 3" an afternoon of traditional dance workshops and performances. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Fort Greene Park, enter park at DeKalb Avenue and South Portland. (718) 625-0080. Free.

**SUNDAY AT THE YARD:** Music with Tenor, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Yard, 400 Canal St. [www.theyardnyc.com](http://www.theyardnyc.com).

**DANCE:** "And Possibility: A Traveling Dance About Traveling" presents a troupe of 10 dancers and musicians. 4 p.m. Coney Island Boardwalk, Western Public Library. \$25, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. West Eighth Street from West Eighth Street. Free.

**ORGAN CONCERT:** At St. Jacob's Lutheran Church, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Reception follows. 5406 Fourth Ave. (718) 439-8978. Free.

**YOUTH ORCHESTRA:** Brooklyn Conservatory Youth Orchestra performs works by Mozart, Mendelssohn and Dvorak. 4 p.m. Old First Reformed Church, Seventh Avenue at Canal Street. (718) 625-3300.

**BARGE MUSIC:** Classical music concert with works by Beethoven, Usher and Schumann. \$35, 5:15 students. 4 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

**ALVIN AILEY:** The Joyce Theater "Classical Alley" 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 625-0095.

**OPERA:** Regia Opera presents Verdi's "Il Trovatore." 3 p.m. See Sat. June 7.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** hosts its 11th annual Black Box play festival. 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. See Sat. June 7.

**OTHER**

**MEMORIAL RUN:** in honor of sanitation worker Michael Hanly. 10 a.m. \$20 registration fee. 12th St. to 15th St. (718) 714-2708.

**NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL:** celebrates Native American culture with music, dance, crafts and more. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$10, \$5 for seniors and children. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Flatbush Cultural Center, 1111 Flatbush Avenue. (718) 686-0012.

**COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE:** at St. Finbar RC Church, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. 297 Bond St. (718) 858-2297. Free.

**BROOKLYN FLEA:** The Flea, an urban showcase, features vendors of vintage furniture, clothing and antiques alongside new designs by local makers of home goods. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fort Greene Park, Visitor Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington. Free. [www.brooklyninfo.com](http://www.brooklyninfo.com).

**RUSSIAN HERITAGE FEST:** Day of ethnic foods and Russian music and dancing. Local folk groups represent Estonia, Georgia, Ukraine, Lithuanian and other nations. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Asser Levy Park, 207 Bond St. (718) 686-0012.

**COMMUNITY FEST:** Brooklyn Jewish Heritage Celebration "Together in New York," 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fort Greene Park, Ocean Parkway and Surf Avenue. (718) 625-0080.

**GLOBAL FEST:** Celebrate music, dance and food from around the world. Noon to 4 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn, 230 Park St. Seaside Church, Eighth Avenue at Sixth Street. (718) 768-0585.

**RECEIPTION:** Bond Street Gallery presents the exhibit "Dead or Alive," featuring images of life and death. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. 297 Bond St. (718) 858-2297. Free.

**BOOK FARM:** Brooklyn Prep hosts an organization that offers culturally appropriate HIV education, an organization that offers culturally appropriate HIV education, an organization that offers culturally appropriate HIV education. \$20, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. 345 Grand St. (718) 599-0067.

**BOOK COURT:** Reading by author Joseph O'Neill from his new book "Netherland." 7 p.m. 163 O'Neil St. (718) 375-3677. Free.

**FORUM:** Fort Greene Park's neighborhood organization, "Race Profiling and Police Brutality in New York City: A Forum on the Sean Bell Case." Sponsored by Adams and Norman Siegel are guest speakers. 7 p.m. 163 O'Neil St. (718) 375-3677. Free.

**READING:** Mike Edison, author of "Honey," discusses his career as a poet and performer. 7:30 p.m. Fort Greene Park, Ocean Parkway and Surf Avenue. (718) 625-0080.

**VOCAL FEST:** Edward R. Murrow Series presents music with Oscar, a string quartet. Donations requested. 8 p.m. to 8 p.m. 1521 110th Newkirk Ave. (917) 301-0079.

**READING:** Mike Edison, author of "Honey," discusses his career as a poet and performer. 7:30 p.m. Fort Greene Park, Ocean Parkway and Surf Avenue. (718) 625-0080.

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# 'Liars'

## Rock marvel Thalia Zedek hits Williamsburg in support of Brooklyn-made record

By Adam Rathe  
The Brooklyn Paper

From her apartment in Boston, Mass., legendary punk singer Thalia Zedek's voice is sweeter than expected. Her trademark smoky growl apparently reserved for recording sessions and live performances, the former lead singer for Come — who's playing at Union Pool on Friday in support of her fourth solo record, "Liars and Prayers" — sounded exceptionally upbeat when she spoke to GO Brooklyn.

"I was kind of putting off recording until I figured out where the sound was going to go," she said of her latest album. "I knew I wanted it to change, and once it became the five of us, I was like, 'This is it!'"

Indeed, on "Liars and Prayers," Zedek is joined by four other musicians, two of whom she played with in Come, and the sound is larger and more complex than her fans might be used to.

"The songs themselves are more political in nature than they had been in the past. It's different in that it's an angrier record; the earlier stuff was focused on personal relationships, but ["Liars"] is more about what's going on in the world."

Songs like "Next Exit" and "Begin to Exhume" address topical subjects like drug addiction, depression and more.

"I think 'Next Exit' might be my favorite [song on the record]," said Zedek. "I love the way it feels cinematic. Every-one comes in gradually and it turns into a completely different thing. I worked hard

Where there's smoke: Singer Thalia Zedek and her band will play Williamsburg's Union Pool on June 13 in support of their new record, "Liars and Prayers."

on that one — the idea had been kicking around for a while, and when we became a five-piece, and I played it for people, it instantly became a song."

"I love the way it feels cinematic. Every-one comes in gradually and it turns into a completely different thing. I worked hard

Some Touch of Madness" in 2004, Zedek and her band (Daniel Coughlin on drums and Dave Curry on viola) toured Europe and Australia, but Zedek said, "We had taken the viola, drums, guitar thing as far as we could." Back in Boston, she recruited bassist Winston Braman, from Shepherdess, and pianist Mel Lederman, from Victory at Sea, and started putting together the new record.

"It's given me a chance to branch out more as a guitar player, which was difficult to do in a three-piece," said Zedek. "I've been able to vary my guitar style more with slide guitar and solos. I don't think it's a huge, radical departure, maybe a little angrier. Now the drummer, Daniel, was in the last incarnation of Come and Winston was our second bass player. There's a little bit of that dynamic there as well. There's a certain comfort zone. We're all pretty comfortable playing together."

And it shows. The album, which was partially recorded at Translator Studios in DUMBO, is tight, powerful and haunting — not just a great record, but a great record overall. From the melancholy opening lines of "Next Exit" to "Lower All-stom," Zedek's ode to her Boston neighborhood and the life there, "Begin to Exhume."

"It took having the right combination of people there to have it happen," Zedek said. And that's exactly what she has.

# BROOKLYN Nightlife

Compiled by Chiara F. Cavan

## BAY RIDGE

**The Wicked Monk**  
415 7th Ave. at 4th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-0001, www.wickedmonk.com  
June 7: Rainbow Fresh, 8 p.m., \$5, Dandelion, 11 p.m., \$5, June 8: Kater (acoustic), 9 p.m., \$5, June 12: Lego Thursdays with DJ Tony Bobo, 10 p.m., \$5, June 13: The Krip, 11 p.m., \$5.

## BEDFORD-STUYVESANT

**Bushbaby**  
1197 Fulton St. at Bedford Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 438-5336, www.bushbabyparty.com  
June 7: Live jazz with The Project, 8 p.m., FREE.

## BOERUM HILL

**Hank's Saloon**  
46 Third Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 425-8003, www.hanksbar.com  
Saturdays: Jam Band Sundays, 8 p.m., FREE, Wednesday: Live band "Brooklyn Rockers," 9:30 p.m., FREE, June 7: The Vagabonds, 9 p.m., Franklin's Mix, 10 p.m., A-1's, 11 p.m., D. Charles Spies, 11:30 p.m., FREE, June 8: The 80s Go South, 9 p.m., FREE, June 12: The Brooklyn Blues, 10 p.m., FREE, June 13: The Hobo Friends of Uncle Jack, 10 p.m., Sister Anne, 11 p.m., Grande, Midnight, FREE.

## BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

**Last Exit Bar and Lounge**  
136 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-9198, www.lastexitbar.com  
Saturdays: "Kinky Kinkadee" DJ Kinky Kinkadee, 10 p.m., \$10, \$15 donation, \$20 party, 10 p.m., FREE, June 13: DJ Miley McHenrich, 10 p.m., FREE.

## BUSHWICK

**Goodbye Blue Monday**  
1087 Broadway at Oodendorn Street in Bushwick, (718) 453-4434  
June 7: Bushwick Music and Arts Festival, 9 p.m., FREE, June 8: Acoustic-Away, 10 p.m., FREE, June 9: Graham, Paradise Refrain, 8 p.m., FREE, June 10: Kowalski Multicultural Jam, 10 p.m., FREE, June 11: The Vagabonds, 9 p.m., Franklin's Mix, 10 p.m., A-1's, 11 p.m., D. Charles Spies, 11:30 p.m., FREE, June 12: The Brooklyn Blues, 10 p.m., FREE, June 13: The Hobo Friends of Uncle Jack, 10 p.m., Sister Anne, 11 p.m., Grande, Midnight, FREE.

## CLINTON HILL

**Five Spot Restaurant**  
487 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 852-0252, www.fivespot.com  
Saturdays: DJ Aki, 7 p.m., FREE, Mondays: RPH, Open Thursdays hosted by DJ Cappa bring your own records and vinyl, 8 p.m., FREE, Tuesdays: Five for Fun Thursdays hosted by Dave Lester, 10 p.m., \$5, Wednesday: Open mic with Nate Jones and DJ Felix, 9 p.m., \$5 \$10 after 10 p.m., June 7: "Ragga Retn," a reggae dance party, 10 p.m., \$10.

## Jazz 966

966 Fulton St. at 3rd Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 438-4910, www.jazz966.com  
June 7: The International Jazz Musician Carlos Garnett, 8 p.m., 10 p.m., \$15 donation with \$5-dk minimum.

## FLATBUSH

**Vox Pop**  
1022 Coney Island Rd. at Stafford Road in Flatbush, (718) 490-2084, www.voxpop.net  
June 7: Stephanie Weisbach, 8 p.m., FREE, Open featured, June 11: Bill Berrell's Rise Local Productions, 8 p.m., Donation suggested, June 12: Tom Donahoe and Townies Van Zandt, 9 p.m., June 13: Melanore, 9 p.m., FREE, June 14: Laid Back, 10 p.m., \$10, \$15 donation suggested.

## FORT GREENE

**BamCafe**  
30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 424-4100, www.bam.org  
June 7: Sundance Institute at BAM featuring Chien De Launay, 9:30 p.m., FREE, June 12: Melanore, 9 p.m., FREE.

## Lox Lounge

15 Putnam Ave. at Grand Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 500-3174  
Sundays: Revival Reggae Sundays featuring DJ Science, Jazz and National Music, 9 p.m., FREE, ladies and reduced with RSVP for gentlemen before midnight, \$10 after midnight, June 8: Rock & Roll the morning, 9 p.m., FREE, for ladies and reduced with RSVP for gentlemen before midnight, \$10 after midnight.

## GOVINOUS

**Issue Project Room**  
222 Third St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 330-0213, www.issueprojectroom.com  
June 7: Densation, William Basinski, 8 p.m., \$10, June 10: The Princeton Laptop Orchestra, Ben Owen, 8 p.m., \$10, June 11: Bala Nalini, Anna Jaeger, Luis Ravallo & Leah Singer, 8 p.m., \$10, June 12: Anna Lovelace, Curtis Balle, 8 p.m., \$10, June 13: LeVid, Zach Layton, 8 p.m., \$10.

## GREENPOINT

**Club Europa**  
98 Meserole Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5722, www.club.europa.net  
Saturdays: VIP dance party, 10 p.m., FREE before

## GREENWOOD HEIGHTS

**Living Room Lounge**  
245 23rd St. at 8th Avenue in Greenwood Heights, (718) 499-1505, www.myspace.com/livingroomlounge  
Saturdays: DJ Kurt, 8 p.m., FREE, Wednesdays:

## STUDIO B

259 Banker St. at Calver Street in Greenpoint, (718) 389-1880, www.studiobrooklyn.com  
June 7: Fixed with Alan Brown, Lilliane and DJs DJH and Dwee T, 10 p.m., \$10 in advance, \$12 day of the show.

## SOUTHPOW

125 5th Ave. at St. Johns Place in Park Slope, (718) 230-4236, www.southpow.com  
June 7: The RUB with DJs Eleven, Ayres and Camo Baker with special guests Indira Jones and Mikay Palmer, 10 p.m., FREE, Midweek Magazine presents "Ladies Night," a rap wrap party for Miss Rap Supreme, 8 p.m., \$1, June 10: Shared in Burgundy and special guests, 8 p.m., \$10, June 11: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 12: Master of Tubafoot, 9 p.m., \$10, June 13: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 14: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 15: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 16: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 17: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 18: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 19: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 20: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 21: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 22: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 23: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 24: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 25: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 26: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 27: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 28: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 29: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10, June 30: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10.

## TEA LOUNGE

87 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 789-7762, www.tealounge.com  
Mondays: Monday Nights with The Brooklyn Jazz Underground, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 9: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 10: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 11: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 12: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 13: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 14: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 15: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 16: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 17: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 18: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 19: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 20: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 21: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 22: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 23: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 24: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 25: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 26: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 27: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 28: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 29: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation, June 30: The Sunny Day Collective, 8 p.m., \$5 suggested donation.

## TWO BOOTS BROOKLYN

514 Second St. at Carver Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 499-3023, www.twobootsbrooklyn.com  
June 7: Fuz and Carver's Caravan of Theives, 10 p.m., \$10 in advance, \$12 day of the show.

## UNION HILL

(Downstairs) at 702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 438-4403, www.unionhill.org  
June 7: Young Kines, 8 p.m., \$10 in advance, \$12 day of the show, June 8: 60 minutes of new comedy with Mike Balaban, 7:30 p.m., \$10, June 9: The 80s Go South, 9 p.m., FREE, June 10: Adam, Wildcards & Pseudonyms, Sharon Van Elton, 7:30 p.m., \$8 in advance, \$10 day of the show.

## OUT OF THIS GALAXIE

On Saturday, June 14, indie rock duo Damon & Naomi, comprised of former members of influential rock band Galaxie 500, will play Southpaw.

## PARK SLOPE

**Barbes**  
316 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9777, www.barbesbrooklyn.com  
Tuesdays: Slavic Soul Party, 9 p.m., \$10, June 7: Launch Party for Fox Magazine, 7 p.m., \$10 suggested donation, Bill Coney's Jug Addicts, 10 p.m., \$10 suggested donation, June 8: The New Yorks, 8 p.m., \$10 suggested donation, The Tollywood, 8 p.m., \$10 suggested donation, The Tollywood, 8 p.m., \$10 suggested donation, June 9: The Tollywood, 8 p.m., \$10 suggested donation, June 10: Doug Warfield, 8 p.m., \$10 suggested donation, June 11: Bloodcount, 8 p.m., \$10 suggested donation, June 12: Bloodcount, 8 p.m., \$10 suggested donation, June 13: Adam Levy, 8 p.m., \$10 suggested donation, H's Roundup, 10 p.m., \$10 suggested donation.

## REDFOOT

**Jalopy**  
313 Columbia St. at Woodchuck Street in Red Hook, (718) 295-3214, www.jalopy.com  
Mondays: Country Blues Jam, 9 p.m., FREE, Tuesdays: "Makia Love, Not War" party, 10 p.m., FREE, Wednesdays: "Brazilian Beat Brooklyn" with DJ Sean Mansueti and DJ Greg C, 9 p.m., FREE, Mondays: Red Vine Anderson and his Love Choir, 10:30 p.m., FREE, Tuesdays: "Saturday Night Takeaways," 10 p.m., FREE, Thursdays: "What a Soul!" with DJs Adrian and Dwee T, 10 p.m., FREE, Fridays: The Greatest with DJ MonkOne and DJs Enkase and MC G-man, 11 p.m., \$10 in advance, \$12 day of the show.

## WILLIAMSBURG

**Black Betty**  
718-218-8144, www.blackbetty.com  
Saturdays: DJ Enkase and G Man the MC, present the "Makia Love, Not War" party, 10 p.m., FREE, Sundays: "Brazilian Beat Brooklyn" with DJ Sean Mansueti and DJ Greg C, 9 p.m., FREE, Mondays: Red Vine Anderson and his Love Choir, 10:30 p.m., FREE, Tuesdays: "Saturday Night Takeaways," 10 p.m., FREE, Thursdays: "What a Soul!" with DJs Adrian and Dwee T, 10 p.m., FREE, Fridays: The Greatest with DJ MonkOne and DJs Enkase and MC G-man, 11 p.m., \$10 in advance, \$12 day of the show.

## BROOKLYN LYCEUM

227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4616, www.lyceum.com  
June 7: "Makia Love, Not War" party, 10 p.m., FREE.

## CAFE STEINHOFF

427 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street in Park Slope, (718) 349-7752, www.cafesteinoff.com  
June 11: The Jack Graco Band, 10:30 p.m., FREE.

## GOOD COFFEEHOUSE

**Muse Parlor**  
506 5th Ave. at 12th Street in Park Slope, (718) 840-0099, www.museparlor.com  
June 7: Dances party with DJs: The Girl and Montecarlo, 10 p.m., FREE, June 13: "The Good Foot" featuring DJ Mory and guests.

## THE ROYALE

506 5th Ave. at 12th Street in Park Slope, (718) 840-0099, www.museparlor.com  
June 7: Dances party with DJs: The Girl and Montecarlo, 10 p.m., FREE, June 13: "The Good Foot" featuring DJ Mory and guests.

## DEATH BY AUDIO

49 Second St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, No phone  
June 7: Mody Lamon, 11 p.m., \$10, June 13: Fusion, 8 p.m., \$10, June 14: The Tingle Tangle Club, Johnny Woo, 9 p.m., \$10.

## GLASSLANDS GALLERY

289 Kent Ave. at South Second Street in Williamsburg, No phone, www.glasslandsgallery.com  
June 8: Bjorn Quammen CD release party, 6 p.m., \$10, Novos Theory, Ana Chon, Legends, 9 p.m., \$10, June 10: Aquila, Ben Emery, 9 p.m., \$10, June 11: Fingered presents Nymph, June 15: Perennial Soles and DJ Potchuge, 9 p.m., \$10, June 12: Boroughville Cueser Cabaret with Black Cowboy, 9 p.m., \$10, June 13: East Day presents The Tingle Tangle Club, Johnny Woo, 9 p.m., \$10.

## MONKEY TOWN

49 Second St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 384-1359, www.monkeytown.com  
June 7: Anomaly and Pigeons, 7:30 p.m., \$7, \$10 suggested donation, June 8: 60 minutes of new comedy with Mike Balaban, 7:30 p.m., \$10, June 9: The 80s Go South, 9 p.m., FREE, June 10: Adam, Wildcards & Pseudonyms, Sharon Van Elton, 7:30 p.m., \$8 in advance, \$10 day of the show.

## MUSIC HALL OF WILLIAMSBURG

64 St. Ann St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 484-5400, www.musichallwilliamsburg.com  
June 7: WNY Radio, The Salads, Mike Benjamin, Anthony Robinson, 9 p.m., \$13 in advance, \$15 day of the show, June 8: The House Party, School of Seven Bells, 11 p.m., \$15, June 10: The XYZ Affair, Action Partners, 10 p.m., FREE, June 12: Sweetened, Longwave, The Soil Out, 9 p.m., \$20.

## NATURAL SELECTION

70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-5188, www.galpagosartspace.com  
Saturdays: Brooklyn Lary Day presents "Crazy" with Earl Daw and Kevin Graves, 11 p.m., \$5, Fridays: XOXO Friday Nights, 10 p.m., FREE, June 7: Black-porn Female DJ Whistling Lame and more only, 11 p.m., \$10 in advance, \$15 day of the show, "Front room" "Kinky Kinkadee," a reggae and variety show, 10 p.m., \$10, June 11: Blackroom "This is Our Music" hosted by Brad Feldman featuring Michael Blake Trio, 8:30 p.m., Knucklehead, 9:30 p.m., Bobby From/Brooklyn Kraze Duo, 10:30 p.m., \$8, June 12: Black and Red room! NYC Indie Rock Launch: Raising Blow by Indolence, Sam Salas, Rosewood Theives, Kirsten DeLam, The Nilas, Discard Encourages, 9 p.m., \$10, Ghetto Motel, 10 p.m., \$10.

## PETE'S CANDY STORE

709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 222-9198, www.petescandystore.com  
Sundays: Open mic, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., FREE, Barbacoa, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., \$5, Tuesdays: Brogo, 7 p.m., FREE, Wednesdays: Quizz Off, 7:30 p.m., FREE, June 7: The House Party, School of Seven Bells, 11 p.m., \$15, June 10: The XYZ Affair, Action Partners, 10 p.m., FREE, June 12: Sweetened, Longwave, The Soil Out, 9 p.m., \$20.

## FOUND FIX LOUNGE

Bedford Ave. at North 11th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 388-8000, www.foundfixlounge.com  
June 8: Sun, 6 p.m., FREE, June 9: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 10: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 11: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 12: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 13: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 14: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 15: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 16: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 17: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 18: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 19: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 20: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 21: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 22: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 23: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 24: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 25: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 26: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 27: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 28: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 29: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE, June 30: Acoustic Music, 8 p.m., FREE.

## SPIKE HILL TAVERN

184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9717, www.spikehill.com  
June 7: Mike Evans Band, 8 p.m., Sally Head, 9 p.m., The Disciples, 10 p.m., FREE, June 8: Mike Schiffer, 8 p.m., Kira Sparrow, 9 p.m., Kidwell, 10 p.m., Jason Von Knatt, 11 p.m., FREE, June 9: Julian August, 7 p.m., Secret Architecture, 8 p.m., Gena Elin, 9 p.m., Benito Chicago, 10 p.m., Brian Prunka, 11 p.m., FREE, June 10: Alpha Western, 9 p.m., FREE, June 11: Open mic, 7:30 p.m., Raja Singh, 11 p.m., FREE, June 12: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 13: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 14: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 15: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 16: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 17: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 18: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 19: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 20: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 21: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 22: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 23: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 24: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 25: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 26: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 27: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 28: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 29: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE, June 30: Candice Lewis, 8 p.m., Joseph Davis, 9 p.m., FREE.

## UNION POOL

718-609-0484, www.unionpool.com  
June 7: Handsome Jack, Used to be Young, 8 p.m., \$7, June 8: Wandering King Duo, La Oracion, 8 p.m., \$8, June 10: Talent Man on Earth, La Oca, 8 p.m., \$10, June 12: The Morning Benders, 8 p.m., \$10, June 13: The Major Stars, Thalia Zedek, Handful One, 9 p.m., \$10.

## ZEBULON

258 Wythe Ave. at Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 218-8144, www.zebulon.com  
June 7: Blake 3/4/8, 8 p.m., \$10, 10:30 p.m., FREE, June 8: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 9: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 10: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 11: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 12: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 13: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 14: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 15: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 16: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 17: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 18: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 19: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 20: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 21: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 22: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 23: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 24: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 25: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 26: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 27: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 28: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 29: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10, June 30: Due Exchange, A Drummer and an Owl, 8 p.m., \$10.

## MANY MORE NIGHTLIFE LISTINGS AT WWW.BROOKLYNPAPER.COM.

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To let your address in Brooklyn Nightlife, please give us as much notice as possible. Include name, phone, address with cross street, phone number for the public to call, Web site address, dates, times and admission or ticket prices. Send list of names and photos of performers via e-mail to Nightlife@BrooklynPaper.com or via fax at (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings before the phone. The listings are correct as of press time. Contact the venue before you go to confirm event details.

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**Sunday, June 8**

**Deluxe Dairy Dinner**  
9:15 pm, Adults \$30, Children \$10

followed by an

**All-Night Torah-thon!**

**11:30 pm:** "The Hunt for the Heroic Jewish Judith" with Professor Sara Reguer

**12:30 am:** "What You Don't Learn in College" with Rabbi Simcha Weinstein

**1:30 am:** "Thou Shalt Not Murder (the 6th Commandment)" with Rabbi Aaron L. Raskin

**2:30 am:** "Secular Legislation of Kashrut Laws: Legitimate Social Legislation, or a Cloak for Anti-Semitism?" with Michael Brenner

**3:30 am:** 7 Mystical Melodies for 7 weeks of the Omer

**Enjoy the performance of Cantor S.Z. Baumgarten this holiday!**

**Monday, June 9**

**I scream, you scream, we all scream for ICE CREAM!**

**Ice Cream Party**  
10:45-11:45 am, FREE for all!

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**SUMMERCELEBSPECTACULAR!**  
How DOES she do it? Joan Rivers, looking as fresh as a 20-year-old, showed up at a BAM on Monday night to take in the Alvin Alley show and pronounced it "magical." Not unlike her good looks!

Peace monger: "M\*A\*S\*H" star Mike Farrell (aka BJ Hunnicutt) spoke to activists at Brooklyn for Peace's Memorial Day fundraiser at Madiba in Fort Greene. Farrell said that valuing human rights is at the core of all social justice and peace work.



The voice of a generation, performing in the early 1960s.

## Gersh's outrage

Bob Dylan is notoriously elusive as an artist, but that's no way to sell concert tickets.

The legendary recluse didn't bother to announce his Aug. 12 show in Prospect Park, but merely posted it on his Web site, bobydylan.com, and offered registered fans a secret password so they could get advance tickets.

Nice. You may own more than 30 Dylan albums, you may receive him as the voice of an entire generation (or two), and you may even be the kind of per-

### THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman PROTEST SONG

son willing to pay \$100 for a ticket to a Bob Dylan show — but if you don't check his Web site every morning, you're out of luck.

Of course, the best seats sold out within hours (despite a \$12 per ticket fee from Ticketmas-

ter, too). I was so angry about the whole thing, that I took Dylan's celebrated relationship — screwed, "Positively 4th Street" — and gave it a few new lyrics.

Take this, Bobby Z!

#### "Positively Outraged"

Music by Bob Dylan Lyrics by Gersh Kuntzman

You've got a lotta nerve  
To not announce it publicly  
Do you think I'm always on  
your Web site?

You got a lotta nerve  
To think I'd even care  
All I wanted was a proper  
invite.

You got a lotta nerve  
To snub your biggest fans.  
It really ain't so hard, you  
know, to please us

You got a lotta nerve  
You really passed me off  
I stuck with you when you  
prayed to Jesus!

Do you take me for such  
a fool  
To think I'd buy tickets.  
When they cost a hundred  
bucks — plus surcharge!

I know the reason  
That you didn't make it  
known.

You knew the price for tickets  
was just too large.

You know as well as me  
Your vocal chords don't  
work so well.

In fact, you can't hit any  
notes to save you.

Maybe I've lost my faith  
But it's not all my fault.  
I saw your show last year,  
and felt I was screwed.

I wish that for just one time  
I could skip a Dylan show.  
And just for that one mo-  
ment, save my paycheck.

Yes, I wish that for just one  
time

I could skip a Dylan show.  
But I just bought a ticket to  
this trainwreck.

## BOB...

Continued from page 1  
movement known as Chabad. For a time, he was a regular acolyte of Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the legendary Crown Heights rebbe.

"He does not mingle much; he is a very quiet person," Rabbi Yisroel Rosenfeld, then head of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, told the



Daily News at the time.

Fans say his re-discovery of his Jewish roots led to his next album, the staunchly pro-Israel "Infidel" in 1983.

His visits to Crown Heights are remembered to this day.

"I think the last time I saw him was 1990," said Rabbi Aaron Raskin of Congregation B'nai Avraham in Brooklyn Heights. "I held him on my shoulders."

These days, he is still on everyone's mind.

Jason Figel, owner of the record store, Music Matters, on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, said Dylan still matters to his customers.

"He's still a big seller, especially the back catalogue," Figel said. "And 'Modern Times' sold very very well, too. I think people will be very excited about the show in August."

Excitement is palpable, but even some Dylan fans are reluctant to part with \$100 — more like \$115 when you include Ticketmaster fees — to hear the roving gambler create a next world war, to paraphrase the singer.

"The ticket price is, frankly, obscene," said Shopper David Shenk, whose comment comes despite owning virtually every record Dylan has released.

"I am a longtime Dylan fan, but we all know that he is very hit or miss in his shows," Shenk said. "And while it's interesting that he's playing in our backyard, \$100 is too much money. I wouldn't pay that much to Rich and Thompson open for a Bruce Springsteen show that featured Elvis Costello doing a set of songs in the middle."

The show is one of three on Celebrate Brooklyn's 28-performance schedule this summer that require concert-goers to purchase tickets.

"We do very few of these ticketed benefit concerts as a means of raising money to support our costs and building out a world-class venue," Walsh said.

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## OUR OPINION

# Ratner's false choice

**O**n Thursday in front of Borough Hall, Bruce Ratner sponsored a rally to celebrate "Brooklyn's renaissance" and "the progress of Atlantic Yards."

As if they are the same thing. Hundreds of union members showed up at this "Brooklyn Day" rally to pledge support for a stalled project that has actually not played any part in Brooklyn's revival. Just the opposite is true: Ratner's wholesale demolitions have blighted parts of the thriving Prospect Heights neighborhood.

Those at the rally — many of whom were bussed in — said they support Ratner because of the jobs that the project will create. But it's hard to take such tributes to Ratner seriously given that Ratner paid for the stage on Thursday — and that union workers are required to attend such mass rallies under their organizations' rules, a union boss told us this week.

As such, this rally is not a spontaneous show of democracy. American-style. It's democracy as they practice it in North Korea, where lackeys are paid to show up and sing psalms to the Great Leader on command.

The irony of course, is that if the very elected officials who continue to sing from Ratner's choir book — we're talking about enablers like Borough President Markowitz and the cronies at the Empire State Development Corporation — had not rubber stamped

Ratner's overly large, impossible-to-finance mini-city, those hard-working union men and women might now be building a rationally scaled, multi-developer project that everyone could admire.

Instead, Ratner's forces continue to advance a false choice that unless he builds his Xanadu, nothing will get built on the state-owned Vanderbilt Rail Yards.

But that has always been a fallacy created to project Ratner as a civic do-gooder, regardless of the fact that taxpayers are underwriting all the supposed public benefits of his project, such as the promise of publicly subsidized below-market-rate rentals, the publicly subsidized return of major league sports to Brooklyn, the publicly subsidized improvements to local infrastructure and the publicly subsidized open space.

Now, as at the beginning of this excruciating process four-and-a-half years ago, there remains no organized opposition to development at the Vanderbilt yards. Indeed, the principal group opposing Ratner's vision is called *Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn*.

There are alternatives to Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project — which is having trouble getting financing because of its many flaws. The time has come for Ratner, his paid union allies and flacks like Markowitz to abandon this failed project and work with those who seek sane, viable, broadly supported development for this valuable publicly owned site.

## ALL DRAWN OUT



## LETTERS

# Democrats should unite behind Steve Harrison

To the editor,

I am amazed that Democratic Party leaders on both sides of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge have endorsed Councilman Mike McMahon (D-Staten Island) instead of supporting Steve Harrison for the congressional seat currently held by Rep. Vito Fossella, who is not running for re-election ("He's the McMahon," May 31).

Harrison is the obvious choice for this race. In 2006, he came within just a few percentage points of defeating the then-very-popular Fossella, with very little funding and not a bit of support from the national party leaders.

Now that the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee finally has its sights on this district — and with the un-

fortunate recent events regarding Fossella — Harrison could easily win this seat for the Democrats.

I urge all Democratic Party leaders to make the obvious choice and immediately back Harrison for the 13th Congressional District. **Eric Rouda, Bay Ridge**

## On their hook

To the editor,

In "Red Hook Ikea prepares for auto onslaught" (May 31), you wrote, "Ikea has declined to say how many people from Red Hook have been hired at the store."

It baffles me that public officials and community leaders who supported Ikea have accepted silence on this important point, especially when creating jobs in Red Hook was the prime reason to support this megastore in an area ill-suited to handle the traffic it will generate.

We must demand transparency! Is Ikea making good on its promises or not? **Alan Mukamal, Red Hook**

## Comrade (up) in arms

To the editor,

I read your paper because I find news about Brooklyn that I can't find anywhere else. Unfortunately, I also notice that when

## He's a 'Yards' party pooper

To the editor,

Last week, this page had a letter to me from a group calling itself United Neighbors of Brooklyn ("Yards foes extend hand to critics of Ratner and DDB," Letters, May 31). But this letter was certainly not a response to my words of May 17 ("This guy faults Bruce Ratner and Atlantic Yards foes,").

I did not express the desire for the broadest coalition possible against the Atlantic Yards proposal. I jotted down some thoughts on Bruce Ratner's depredations and how I have sat out the fight against him because his foes are also arrogant.

I rue the disrespect shown Ratner backers. The animosity will linger whether

Atlantic Yards gets built or not. If it doesn't, what a bitter victory. Their letter made assumptions about me.

In my mourning for lost human ground, they heard a cry for city services. A big jump. I am hereby turning down UNB's invitation to join them in their continued effort to bring together all the communities negatively affected by Forest City Ratner's past and current plans.

In closing, I do not know even one signer on the UNB letter, yet all five have felt free to call me by my first name, Leon — twice. They couldn't give me the common respect of Mr. de Augusto. **Leon de Augusto, Bushwick**

you write about Park Slope, you continuously use language that relates it to Mother Russia and all things Communist.

It's about as offensive as writing about Fort Greene in relation to the politics of the Black Panthers. But you don't do it with other neighborhoods, just Park Slope.

I'm a childless, thirtysomething, non-white person who lives on Fifth Avenue, so I hear you when you write on issues regarding the Slope. But your derogatory political classification of the neighborhood weakens your writing.

**Kimberly Bliss, Park Slope**

## Great podcasts

To the editor,

I just wanted to send a bit of a fan mail your way. I am truly obsessed with watching The Brooklyn Paper's podcasts.

No joke. The one documenting bird-on-bird violence ("Bird on bird," April 26) has gotten me through some tough times (I love it when your editor screams, "It's pigeon insanity on Fourth Street!!!!").

Thank you! Keep it up! **Erin Mills, Park Slope**

**Editor's note:** All our podcasts and videos can be viewed at <http://www.brooklynpaper.com/sections/media/podcast>. Enjoy.

## Change of direction

To the editor,

The Brooklyn Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, which recently objected to the use of "park land" for judges' parking next to the Adams Street courthouse ("Judge them!" Letters, April 26) has withdrawn its objection to the judges' parking lot.

The Chapter now knows that the parking lot was constructed as an integral part of the Supreme Court building, which also sits in Columbus Park — property owned by the Parks Department. Thus, the park-

ing lot did not in any sense take away "park land," and the Chapter no longer has any objection to its remaining in its location.

However, the Chapter urges the judges not to expand the lot by parking on the walkway that adjoins the parking lot.

**Donald Weston, Brooklyn Heights**  
The writer is chair of the urban design committee for the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.  
**Editor's note:** According to city records, the courthouse does not sit on "property owned by the Parks Department." The judges' parking lot, by comparison, does.

## Caton place

To the editor,

I am a truck driver, and if people on Caton Avenue think we should ban all the trucks off that street, they should remember this: You will have to go grocery shopping in New Jersey ("Trucks driving Caton Av nuts," Jan. 27, 2007).

What are these people thinking that we just cruise down Caton Avenue for pleasure?

What we are doing is delivering the stuff that people are buying in the stores.

So, go ahead and demand that the police fine us. Soon, the stores in your neighborhood will be empty or will have to charge 40 percent more for products sold in your area. **Lucas Kalkman, Kensington**

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